

Nigerian hijack stand-off continues

NIAMEY (AP) — Hijackers holding a Nigerian Airways jet promised Wednesday to free two hostages if authorities agreed to one of their five demands, which range from toppling the Nigerian government to investigating its abuses. In Nigeria, an organisation calling itself "Movement for the Advancement of Democracy" claimed it ordered the hijacking by one of its "suicide squads." For a third day, hijackers continued their siege inside an idled Airbus 310, which was hijacked Monday upon takeoff in Lagos, Nigeria, and diverted to Niamey, the capital of neighbouring Niger. The estimated four to six hijackers freed most of the 159 passengers on Monday but continued to hold between 23 and 34 passengers and crew members. Niger authorities said the hijackers had claimed they splashed gasoline inside the aircraft and would blow it up in 72 hours — roughly 1200 GMT on Thursday — if their demands were not met. The drama took a new turn on Wednesday when Lagos newspapers received copies of a statement from a group claiming to have organised the hijacking in protest, Nigeria's military-backed government. Rights activists in Nigeria said they heard of the group only when it was formed a week ago.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordanian Press Syndicate
جوردان تايمز صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Charles calls for understanding of Islam

OXFORD, England (R) — Prince Charles accused Iraq on Wednesday of repressing southern marsh Arabs but called for Western understanding of the Islamic World as a whole. In a rare and outspoken foray into foreign policy issues, the British royal heir expressed outrage at Iraq's reported crackdown on its own people and called for international action to avert a "total cataclysm" in their southern marsh environment. The prince warned Westerners against equating it with extremist fundamentalism. Prince Charles called for greater tolerance and understanding between the West and the Arab World to contain a threat of increasing civil conflict like the three-way battle in former Yugoslavia between Serbs, Croats and Muslims. Speaking as patron of the university's Islamic Studies Centre, he said: "We must not slide into a new era of danger and division because governments and peoples, communities and religions cannot live together in a shrinking world. Our understanding of Islam has been grossly distorted by taking extremes to be the norm," he added, accusing the media of promoting "unthinking prejudice" in reporting the Museum world.

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Majali returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali returned to Amman Wednesday following a visit to Paris where he addressed the annual conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO). He told Petra his speech dealt with the current changes in the world as well as the question of peace and Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the status of Jerusalem. During the visit Dr. Majali met with UNESCO Director General Federico Mayor to discuss the Middle East peace process. Dr. Majali said the two sides' views were identical. Referring to the UNESCO conference, he said that the Arab delegates played a clear and impressive role at the gathering.

Husseini satisfied with Amman talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Head of the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks Faisal Husseini Wednesday expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Jordanian-Palestinian economic committee meetings held in Amman on Tuesday. In a press statement, Mr. Husseini said that Jordanian-Palestinian coordination, one of the bases of the peace process, was progressing well. He said that the economic committee's meetings ended and its recommendations needed endorsement in the Palestinian-Israeli talks in Tabat. Mr. Husseini said, "are some issues here and there that need to be resolved." He said he hoped that these meetings will be fruitful regarding main issues. He pointed to the release of some prisoners — a step in the right direction although we had expected that the released would include all detainees in Israeli prisons. Mr. Husseini said that the next step would be return of Palestinians expelled after 1967 to their homeland in addition to the removal of an Israeli ban on Palestinian entry to Jerusalem.

Engineers head for West Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — A team representing the Jordan Engineers' Association (JEA) Wednesday left for the West Bank to attend a conference on architecture. The conference, which is organized by Bir Zeit University, will focus on local and Palestinian architecture.

Iraq: U.S. hatched 'World Cup plot'

MANAMA (AFP) — Iraq accused the United States Wednesday of hatching a plot with world football chiefs to try and stop its side reaching the 1994 World Cup finals. The allegation came after football's governing body FIFA suspended Iraq's top striker Habib Jaafar, sent off during last Friday's match against Iran, for Thursday's game against Japan. The allegation was made after a meeting of the Iraqi Football Federation in Baghdad. The meeting claimed FIFA had joined the plot "under United States' pressure, Iraq need to beat Japan in their final match in Qatar to have a chance of qualifying. Ed Best, vice-president of the USA '94 World Cup Organising Committee, said earlier on Wednesday all teams, including Iraq, which qualified for the finals would be allowed into the United States.

Jordanians will be pragmatic towards peace process — King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has expressed confidence that Jordanians would live up to their national responsibilities and support the Middle East peace process despite the opposition voiced by some of them to the process and recent developments in Arab-Israeli peacemaking. "Regardless of any other factor, Jordanians, when they assume their responsibilities, are very pragmatic," the King said in an interview with the Los Angeles Times Syndicate. "I hope they will act more responsibly in the times ahead... I am utterly committed to the cause of lasting peace that will change the situation in the region entirely."

The King was answering a question by interviewer Nathan Gardels whether the Islamic Action Front, which opposes the peace process, would be able to "block" a Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty if the front wins the 25 to 30 seats it says it expects in the

Nov. 8 Parliamentary elections.

"This country is comprised of Muslims as well as many Christians, and they will all be represented in the coming parliaments," the King said. "I don't think they will let themselves down, let the Palestinians down, or let me down."

Answering a question related to the position of Jordan in the Gulf crisis, the King said the Kingdom was "never in favour of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein and did not support Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait."

"Jordan was worried, like every single Arab state, about fragmentation. We were worried about the human and material losses," he said. "Jordan was not against the United States," the King said, "but we were against the destruction of the Iraqi people made to suffer dearly for the policies of its leaders."

Following is a transcript of the interview, made available to the Jordan Times by the Los

Angeles Times Syndicate Global Viewpoint.

GLOBAL VIEWPOINT: Now that the external foil of the "Zionist enemy" is being removed by the PLO-Israeli peace process, won't the Arab states be deprived of their reason for national unity and be forced to look inward? There is no longer any excuse for autocratic rulers not to open their societies.

KING HUSSEIN: I hope this will happen. There is no doubt that the rug will be pulled from under the feet of many a leader in the region who used the confrontation with Israel to aspire to or justify his own power. Time, and again that has been the root cause of instability in the region.

I have been saying for a long time that this region should emulate the European model of integration, since there is so much complementarity. If relations can be based on mutual respect, we can move away from confrontation. Our Palestinian brethren in-

sist at this point that they want a confederation with Jordan. I insist we do nothing except work from the grass roots upward. And that requires an opening up of Arab society so that any coming together is something that is natural, normal and meaningful.

This same logic would apply to a broader integration of the region. We have seen so many efforts at unity, but they have all failed because they weren't built from the grass roots upward. Now, with the PLO settling their affairs with Israel, we may for the first time have this opportunity.

True unity can only happen when there is pluralism and freedom of expression so that we can deal with each other on a people-to-people basis. Then the relationships mean something and are not based on the whims or moods of unaccountable leaders.

To crown this hope of peace based on new democratic possibilities in the Arab World, I

(Continued on page 5)

PLO: Israel to free more detainees soon

Combined agency dispatches

TABA, Egypt — Israel is expected to free more Palestinian prisoners this week and to discuss a timetable for the release of thousands of other detainees by mid-December, the chief Palestinian negotiator here said Wednesday.

Nabil Shaath, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation to talks with Israel here, also said both sides were now discussing the schedule for the Israeli army's pullout from the occupied territories and the deployment of Palestinian police.

But the priority for the Palestinians was a timetable for the more than 10,000 prisoners held by the Jewish state, Dr. Shaath told reporters at this Egyptian Red Sea resort.

The work of the two teams will focus on an "agreement on a specific release for this week but also a schedule of release for the rest of the period" up to Dec. 13, when the Israeli army is to be redeployed, he said. "I hope before the end of this session, there will be a new announcement for the release of new groups but I am more happy about a schedule," said the political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

"Once a schedule is made, people will know ahead of time who will be released," said Dr. Shaath. "This will satisfy the families. This will make it easier for everybody... we can then address other issues, such as deportees."

Negotiating committees here were now involved in the details of autonomy, Shaath said. "The security committee is now talking about the Israeli withdrawal schedule, the Palestinian deployment schedule to take over, and the structure of the Palestinian police force," he said.

"The civilian committee is now talking about the transfer

of authority and they will go department by department," he said, adding the general principles have been already agreed upon.

A new committee will begin work on Thursday to discuss travel across border points between Rafah in the Gaza Strip and Egypt and between Jericho and Jordan as well as passage between Gaza and Jericho, he said.

The heads of that committee were to meet beforehand to "set the exact terms of reference," Dr. Shaath added.

On Tuesday as the two sides resumed their latest round of talks on Palestinian autonomy, the PLO called on Israel to declare a general amnesty. The latest round of talks on implementation of Palestinian autonomy, due to run until Thursday evening, opened after Israel released 617 prisoners — children and women, the old and sick — over the previous 24 hours.

Referring to Israel's last-minute refusal to free 23 members of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, Dr. Shaath said Tuesday: "These prisoners did not participate in any attack and they should not be paying for it."

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin halted the release of members of Hamas and the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad movement after the killing of two Israeli soldiers in the Gaza Strip on Sunday.

A Gaza Palestinian said Wednesday Israel freed him and other young Muslim activists this week despite Mr. Rabin's order to keep opponents of the Israeli-PLO peace pact behind prison bars.

Ahmad Al Abed, 16, of Khan Yunis, told Reuters he was one of "about 14" activists of Hamas among 617 Palestinians Mr. Rabin released on Monday.

(Continued on page 5)

Sharaa warns against separate peace; Rabin 'delaying' Syria talks

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on Wednesday warned against making separate peace with Israel and ruled out Syria's participation in any secret negotiations with the Jewish state. Mr. Sharaa stressed that separate peace deals with Israel will not lead to a total settlement in the Middle East, and said the Jewish state and the PLO may end up negotiating for more than 10 years to implement their peace accord.

He also said Jordan should not make its own separate peace with Israel.

"We believe that it is not in Jordan's interest to take a separate road because this will complicate the situation in Jordan and it will not lead to stability," Mr. Sharaa said in an interview with Al Diyar newspaper.

Jordan and Israel signed a peace agenda on Sept. 14, one day after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and the Jewish state signed the accord on limited Palestinian autonomy.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has called for talks with Syria outside the framework of the 1991 Madrid peace conference to break the impasse in their bilateral negotiations.

Mr. Sharaa, who was speaking after talks last week in Damascus with U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross and British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd, said London and Washington supported a just and total peace in the region.

Syria is confident that the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton will pursue the peace process within the framework of the Madrid conference, he told Al Diyar.

Peace talks between Israel and Syria have bogged down

over the Golan Heights.

Damascus wants Israel to return the Heights and withdraw from all occupied Arab territories before outlining its vision of peace but Israel is demanding total peace first.

"Syria will not take part in a new round of futile talks," Mr. Sharaa told a Baathist Party conference Wednesday, adding that Israel had to commit itself "to full withdrawal from the Golan and to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region."

"When Israel commits itself to full withdrawal and to honour U.S. resolutions 242 and 338 on which the Madrid conference was based, then the U.S. and Russia could extend invitations to resume the talks in Washington," he said.

Israel has sent a message to Syria that their negotiations would resume "in earnest" only after the autonomy deal with the Palestinians gets underway, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The report came a day after President Clinton called on Israel and Syria to resume their stalled talks, saying there could be no total Middle East peace without Syria.

The English-language daily the Jerusalem Post said Mr. Rabin conveyed the message last week to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad through Mr. Ross.

Mr. Ross, the State Department's Middle East coordinator, visited Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Syria.

Mr. Rabin reportedly told Mr. Ross that he felt his ruling coalition could not accept concessions on too many fronts at one time. He also wanted more Syrian gestures to improve the climate.

Uri Savir, director general of

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visits the Ministry of Interior, where he was briefed by the minister, Salameh Hammad (left), on all procedures taken to ensure normal proceedings of the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections. The King is accompanied by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (Petra photo).

lauded the strenuous efforts exerted by the ministry to prepare for the elections. He was accompanied by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker (Petra photo).

951,433 collect voting cards; collection deadline Nov. 3

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

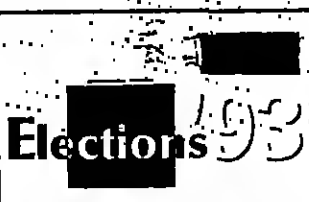
AMMAN — The deadline for Jordanians to collect their voting cards is Wednesday, Nov. 3, Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad announced Wednesday.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Hammad said that about one million voters would have collected their voting cards by today evening.

He said that the 951,433 of the country's 1.5 million registered voters have collected their cards, pointing out that this figure "is an indication of the people's awareness of the role they have to play and of their participation in the democratic process by their own will and by conviction."

Officials have said that they expect up to 1.2 million people to collect their voting cards and between 800,000 and one million to cast their ballots on Nov. 8.

That compares with about 700,000 who collected their



cards and 550,000 who actually voted during the 1989 elections.

In his comments Wednesday, Mr. Hammad denied that the government had earlier set Thursday, Oct. 28 as the deadline for voters to collect their voting cards. "In fact, we did not set a specific date and I don't remember that I had declared a deadline," he added.

The extension aims at allowing people more time to receive their cards, without which they cannot cast their votes on Nov. 8.

Asked why a ban on public rallies, the minister said that election campaign should abide by the Election Law, "Article 61 of the Election Law, which specifies the means

and methods for campaigning, bans the use of public places and preaching places for campaign purposes," he said.

"We have allowed candidates to campaign through holding public debates in places not under the control of state such as the candidates' campaign headquarters, cinemas, etc.," he said.

The minister added that procedures taken recently in transferring some employees from one place to another are not targeted against a specific party or people in particular.

"This is considered as facilitating the process and not punishing people," he said.

Officials have said that the transfers were made because the civil servants concerned were found using their official status and facilities to help candidates — a practice banned under the law.

The officials said the transferred employees belonged to various political parties and not the Islamic Action Front alone, as charged by the front.

Israelis attack resistance in Lebanon

Combined agency dispatches

SIDON — Israeli warplanes and helicopter gunships attacked suspected resistance bases and infiltration routes Wednesday.

The Israeli air raids, the second in South Lebanon since the Sept. 13 signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord, came after an overnight guerrilla attack on Israel's self-styled "security zone."

No casualties were reported from the air strikes or from the earlier guerrilla attack with mortars, grenades and machineguns, security sources said.

The sources said four fighter bombers struck the villages of Meeta and Jebel Safi in Iqlim Al Toufah at 12.20 p.m.

'Deranged' man kills three in Cairo hotel

CAIRO (Agencies) — A gunman who shot dead two Americans and a Frenchman in a luxury Cairo hotel was deranged and not a Muslim militant, Egyptian officials said Wednesday.

Officials were quick to dismiss the grisly killings at the Semiramis Hotel overlooking the Nile River in downtown Cairo from the recent wave of Islamic fundamentalist attacks that have decimated Egypt's vital tourism industry.

Police said 28-year-old musician Saber Abu Al Ala gunned down two American businessmen and a noted French jurist and author, Fernand Boudand, while they had dinner at the hotel's gourmet restaurant Tuesday night.

Embassies identified the dead Americans as Coby Hoffman, 44, and Robert Louis Guidi, 45, employees of energy companies.

Three other foreigners were wounded and were in critical

condition, including an Italian who was not expected to live. A waiter who tried to protect them also was hurt in the worst attack for years on foreigners in Egypt.

Some people in the hotel at the time said the gunman had yelled "Allahu Akbar" and protests about Serbian aggression against Muslims in Bosnia as he fired. But police said he only shouted anti-Serb slogans.

The Interior Ministry released the gunman's military record indicating he was cashiered from the army five years ago for psychiatric problems.

The government daily Al Gomhuria said Abul Al Ala told police he was avenging the killings of Muslim children, the rape of women and the destruction of mosques in Bosnia.

Some of the victims Tuesday were lawyers attending a convention on penal law, among them the French victim.

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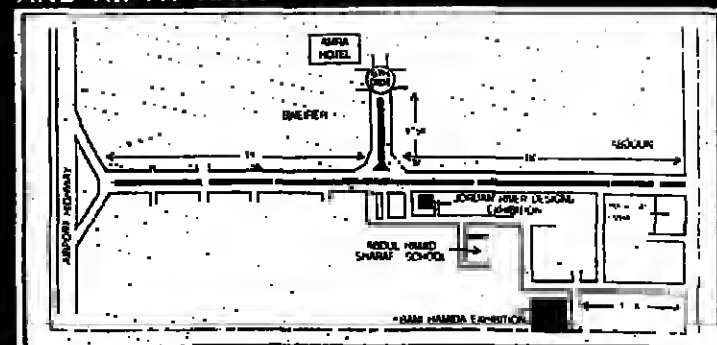
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Moscow puts West in a quandry over sanctions

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Russia's reluctance to vote for sanctions against Libya over the Lockerbie bombing has left the United States, Britain and France in a quandry about what to do next, diplomats said.

"We don't know how to resolve the problem," said a Western diplomat who denied, however, that the draft resolution for stiffer sanctions against Libya was floundering.

"We'll pass it in the end," he said.

On Oct. 1, the United States, Britain and France put together a draft resolution for freezing Libya's foreign-held assets and imposing an embargo on oil industry equipment.

Those measures would be added to the oil and arms embargo in force since 1992 when Tripoli was charged with acts of "international terrorism."

As with the initial sanctions, the goal is to get Tripoli to turn over two Libyans accused of the 1988 jetliner bombing over Lockerbie, Scotland, which left 270 people dead and to cooperate in investigations into the bombing of the UTA jet over Niger in 1989 which killed 170.

Russia, which holds veto power in the U.N. Security Council, has objected to the new sanctions, saying they would make it impossible for Libya to repay a military debt to Moscow which has run up to billions of dollars over the years.

In addition, Moscow had significant trade ties with Libya before the sanctions and a number of Russian nationals still reside there.

Russian diplomats have de-

cried the latest resolution as an "unjust" measure aimed only at harming Moscow's interests while preserving the West's — particularly in the oil sector.

Faced with this stumbling block, the U.S., Britain and France delegations have put all their hopes on Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to Moscow.

Mr. Christopher met with Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev Friday to discuss the U.N. sanctions but disagreed on some points, a senior U.S. official said.

"The two countries' positions moved closer together but are not yet identical," the official said.

In Moscow, the daily Izvestia newspaper said Tuesday Mr. Kozyrev and Kozyrev had agreed that Moscow would be involved in drafting the final U.N. resolution on Libya.

Quoting an unnamed Russian diplomat, Izvestia said Moscow's refusal to agree to tougher sanctions was due to the fact that the draft resolution had been drawn up by France, Britain and the United States "without taking account of Russian interests," notably on the problem of debt repayment.

The diplomat said the debt owed to Russia by Libya averaged \$2.5 to \$3 billion.

The United States finds itself at a crossroads, acknowledging that it does not want to create more problems in Moscow, where some hardliners are adamant about getting the much-needed payments on the military debt, diplomats here said.

"Either we think the Russians are bluffing and won't actually veto the resolution and we put it to a vote, or we

believe there is a real problem with Russia and continue negotiating with them," said a Western diplomat.

At least five other council members — China, Morocco, Pakistan, Djibouti and Cape Verde — have voiced reservations about the proposed resolution. Approval requires a minimum of nine of the 15 votes.

Thailand reports action

The Thai government has taken action against three companies allegedly involved in assisting Libya to produce chemical weapons, a Foreign Ministry official said Wednesday.

Thailand signed an international treaty earlier this year banning the production and stockpiling of chemical weapons and remained committed to that stand, said Deputy Foreign Ministry spokesman Ravee Hongprabhas.

The New York Times reported earlier this week that the United States had warned Thailand that Thai companies were the principal foreign contractors involved in the production of chemical weapons plants in Libya.

Police in the northern Thai city of Chiang Mai arrested the owner of an engineering firm on Oct. 14 on charges of illegally sending Thai workers to Libya to build chemical weapons facilities.

Authorities have since September shut down two job placement agencies allegedly sending Thais to Libya to work in chemical weapons facilities.

There are an estimated 25,000 Thai workers in Libya, several hundred of whom are allegedly working in the chemical facilities.

Algiers says abductor identified

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Police believe they have identified one of the abductors in the weekend kidnapping of three French consular employees, a worker for a state-owned company, the official APS news agency reported.

The report amounting to the first known break in the case came as police combed Muslim fundamentalist strongholds around Algiers and foreign governments withdrew employees or advised extreme vigilance.

There has been no claim of responsibility for the Sunday morning kidnapping as the three started out for work at the consulate, and no information on their fate.

The abduction was the fourth attack on foreigners in the country in a month. Seven have been killed in that time, including two French snipers, in attacks attributed to Islamic extremists.

Armed Islamic militants are blamed for the deaths of at least a dozen journalists and intellectuals since spring.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in a spiraling cycle of violence triggered by the army's January 1992 cancellation of parliamentary elections. Fundamentalists were winning and installation of a collective presidency.

The attacks on foreigners escalate the conflict in an especially damaging way for Algeria, which is trying to attract investment to help boost its crippled economy, blamed for the rise of fundamentalism.

The French Foreign Ministry said Tuesday that it would be "opportune" for French nationals to return home for the All Saints Day vacation period, which starts Thursday, and advised remaining citizens to stay in contact with authorities. France is studying whether to withdraw its 25,000 nationals in Algeria, President Francois Mitterrand said Monday night.

The German auto firm Mercedes is withdrawing its employees, families have said, and Siemens is considering doing so.

Gunmen holding a Mercedes employee hostage for nine hours earlier this month issued a warning to all foreigners to leave the country.

The Philippines foreign secretary, Roberto Romila, said Tuesday he was asking Algerian authorities to "take utmost measures" to protect Filipinos working there.

A Filipino, a Colombian and a Peruvian, all working for an Italian firm, were among those recently killed. Two Russian technicians also were slain.

Richard Duke, a French Foreign Ministry said: "considering the tension (in Algeria) it would seem timely that the families who so wish should return at this time."

Traditionally, the French take advantage of the Nov. 1 holiday — which coincides with school half-term — to schedule a short autumn break.

The spokesman stressed that all French embassies had evacuation plans for French nationals and that securing the safety of French citizens was a prime concern.

"We have asked the Algerian government to assist us in this regard," he added.

French Ambassador Bernard Kessedjian was in close contact with Algerian authorities but no information about the three-day hunt for the kidnapped consular staff has been released, officials said.

The unknown abductors of the three citizens — Jean Claude and Michele Thevenot and Alain Fressier — have still not claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

Rabin sees municipal polls as a referendum on peace

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin spent Tuesday touring chic cafes, open markets and sweltering eateries in Israel's main city telling hecklers and supporters that the municipal elections a week away will be a referendum on peace.

"You have to decide if you are in favour of peace or against it," Mr. Rabin said while stumping for Labour Party mayoral candidate Avigdor Kahalani in Tel Aviv's Hatikva slum.

Mr. Kahalani's opponent, Ronnie Milo, a police minister in the former right-wing Likud government, has downplayed issues of war and peace, concentrating his campaign on plans to build a subway and other public works.

But Mr. Rabin maintained the world and the Arabs will inevitably see the Nov. 2 vote as the first nationwide straw poll on the peace agreement signed last month with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"Ignoring the local elections' political significance is ignoring the facts of life," Mr. Rabin said.

As if to underscore his point, dozens of hecklers tried to shout him down with taunts that had nothing to do with local issues, shouting "PLO, PLO" and "traitor."

Others offered handshakes and words of support for peace — and few paid much attention to Mr. Kahalani despite his being one of Israel's most decorated soldiers.

In Jerusalem this week, right-wingers shouted down Mr. Rabin and created such a melee with peace supporters that he was forced to curtail a speech endorsing Mayor Teddy Kolek's reelection.

Despite Mr. Rabin's calls to send a message of peace, history indicates Israelis distinguish between local and national politics.

Jerusalem, which leans to the right in national elections, has kept the dovish Kolek in city hall for almost three decades, turning him into one of

the world's best known mayors.

And in Tel Aviv, Mr. Milo is doing everything possible to gloss over his right-wing past in a proudly secular Mediterranean metropolis that likes to think of itself as somewhat removed from the nationalist passions of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

A former leading spokesman for ex-Premier Yitzhak Shamir's uncompromising stance towards the Palestinians, Mr. Milo last month would not vote with most of his Likud colleagues against the PLO accord in parliament.

Likud Tel Aviv branch head Eitan Sulami said that Mr. Milo is now "for tactical reasons uninterested in any public connection to Likud," going so far as to ask Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu to refrain from statements of support, the Ha'aretz daily said.

Mr. Milo terms his candidates' list for the municipal council "apolitical" and has, to Mr. Rabin's chagrin, succeeded in recruiting the support of even Shulamit Aloni, leader of the dovish Meretz Bloc and one of the most zealous peace advocates.

Cinema commercials present the city as a pseudo-European mix of nightlife, surf and commerce that "must not be stopped."

They hint that cosmopolitan lawyer Milo is a more natural fit than Mr. Kahalani, a soft-spoken former tank commander of working class Yemenite origins.

The tactic appears to be working, with polls showing Mr. Milo has wiped out Mr. Kahalani's early lead and is now well ahead.

Mr. Kolek and Likud challenger Ehud Olmert, who has effectively focused on the octogenarian incumbent's age, are running so close that a second round is likely.

In the port of Haifa, Israel's third largest city, Labour's Amram Mitzna, a former army general, is running virtually unopposed.

Investigators say contractor helped Israelis divert aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — A major American military contractor and Israeli defence officials helped Israeli air force officers divert millions of dollars of U.S. aid, congressional investigators said.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) found that Pratt and Whitney and the Israeli ministry of defence assisted in diverting \$12.5 million through an overpricing scheme organised by former Israeli air force Brigadier General Rami Dotan and others.

The diversions took place from 1986 to 1991, said the GAO, which does investigations for Congress, in testimony to be delivered to a House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Wednesday.

The GAO said the scheme involved two small Pratt and Whitney subcontractors Yretco and Air Tech.

The companies are owned by Ben Sonnenschein, who transferred the excessive profits to a relative and a close associate of Gen. Dotan in Israel.

"We could not determine what happened to these funds because we did not have access to records or individuals outside the United States."

Gen. Dotan is serving a 13-year prison term in Israel for allegedly skimming millions of dollars in U.S. military aid that financed air force projects. Mr. Sonnenschein pled guilty last year in federal court to currency and income

tax violations related to his role in the diversion.

Robert Daniell, the chairman and chief executive officer of United Technologies, said that he regretted the involvement of Pratt and Whitney in the scheme.

Pratt and Whitney is a division of United Technologies Corp., and one of the government's two main jet engine contractors.

"It is an embarrassment to me personally and to the corporation," Mr. Daniell said in a statement prepared for his testimony Wednesday. "The nature of Pratt and Whitney's involvement, according to information we have developed, was as an unwitting participant in a deception contrived by former Israeli air force General Rami Dotan and others."

Mr. Daniell said no Pratt and Whitney employee deliberately or knowingly violated company policies or government regulations.

He said the diversion occurred because the company dealt with an Israeli military "hero" who demanded total responsiveness from suppliers, questions drew terse references to Israel's national security and weaknesses in subcontracting procedures "permitted General Dotan and his confederates to subvert the process."

The GAO found that when Pratt and Whitney received software and equipment from Yretco and Air Tech it sent the products to Israel without inspecting or testing the work.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hariri to probe meeting on water resources

BEIRUT (AFP) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri has ordered an inquiry into why senior officials took part in a seminar on Middle-East water resources attended by Israeli delegates without informing the government. Mr. Hariri said the parliament deputies that Boutros Labaki, vice-president of the parliament-sponsored Development and Reconstruction Council, and state-sponsored Professor Bahzad Hakim of the Lebanese University "participated on their own initiative" in the seminar, organised in early October in the Turkish capital Ankara. Mr. Hariri said he would submit the results of the inquiry to parliament. He said Mr. Labaki had told him that he saw another wrong in attending the seminar. Supporters of former Prime Minister Salim Hoss questioned Mr. Hariri about the affair, charging that the government was playing a double game over the multilateral Middle East peace talks. Lebanon and Syria have refused to participate in multilateral talks covering a range of issues including water resources until substantial progress is made in the bilateral talks. A meeting on Middle East water resources attended by 43 delegations, 17 of them from the Middle East, opened in Beijing Tuesday.

Yemeni vice-president refuses to quit Aden

ADEN (AFP) — Yemeni Vice-President Ali Salem Al Baithi has said he will not return to the Capital Sanaa unless his dispute with President Ali Abdullah Saleh is resolved. "I shall not return to Sanaa, and I shall not swear an oath," Mr. Baithi said in an interview published Tuesday in the Yemen Socialist Party daily Aden. Mr. Baithi, the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) leader, has been in Aden for more than two months, demanding implementation of a huge economic and administrative reform programme to enable Yemen to overcome a severe economic crisis. "Without a mechanism for consolidating the democratic process in Yemen and building a modern state the situation may get even worse," Mr. Baithi warned in the interview. "I am still in power, because my party is represented in the presidential council, and I will not allow anyone to jeopardise Yemeni unification," Mr. Baithi said.

Sudan accuses U.S. of backing rebel cause

KHARTOUM (AFP) — The Sudanese government on Tuesday accused the United States of backing the country's armed opposition rebels who have been fighting Khartoum since 1983. Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Omer Beridou said Washington had proved this by last week bringing together two rival Sudanese opposition factions for the first time in two years. The Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement were invited for the talks by House of Representatives Africa Sub-Committee last Thursday. The opposition leaders, John Garang and Riek Machar, agreed on an eight-point plan to resolve their differences peacefully and unite against Khartoum's government forces.

Swiss phone book joke upsets Arab diplomats

GENEVA (AFP) — Arab diplomats in Geneva have protested about the cover of the latest local phone book, which they say is in bad taste and offensive to Arabs. Swiss television station TSR reported Tuesday. A drawing on the cover of the phonebook depicts two Arabs looking at Geneva's famous fountain that squirts water high into the air and exclaiming: "Transparent oil." Arabs diplomats accredited to the United Nations said the cover displayed a "negative and discriminatory" attitude and urged the Swiss authorities in a formal protest note to take action against the phone company, Dieter Syz, the head of the Swiss telephone company apologised to the diplomats and to the Arab community for the cover and said he hoped the problem could be resolved. But Bruno Fauser, whose cartoon has caused the diplomatic storm, was unapologetic. "It's not the drawing but the interpretation that is in bad taste," he said. "People have lost their sense of humour."

Wright regrets haste of Iran-contra probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former House Speaker Jim Wright said Tuesday that congressional haste and fear of possible impeachment of President Ronald Reagan hurt the probe into the Iran-contra scandal six years ago. On a promotional tour for his new book, Mr. Wright said Congress made a mistake by completing its 1987 investigation of the affair in little more than six months. He noted that prosecutors have recently uncovered new evidence detailing Mr. Reagan's role in Iran-contra — notes from Mr. Reagan's top advisers — and the former speaker urged immediate release of the prosecutors' final report. Completed in August, it is under seal at a federal appeals court, which has given Mr. Reagan's lawyers until December to respond to it. Mr. Wright told reporters that congressional leaders carefully avoided the question of impeaching President Reagan in Iran-contra, and were anxious to spare Congress and the country a divisive Watergate-style political ordeal. "There was whispering in the cloak room" about impeaching Mr. Reagan, but "no official discussion," said Mr. Wright, whose book "Worth It All" focuses on U.S. policy in Central America during the Reagan years. "I hoped that there would not be discovery of an impeachable offense," said Mr. Wright. "I didn't want to focus on such a divisive subject. I may have bent over backwards in error."

Ohio seeks ban on Demjanjuk marches

CLEVELAND (AP) — Lawyers for a Cleveland suburb asked a judge Tuesday to nix a ban on protests outside the home of John Demjanjuk, cleared of charges he was the Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible." Opponents of Mr. Demjanjuk's return to the United States have long since made any point they might have. Seven Hills prosecutor Peter Sackett and Mayor George Chandick told Judge Daniel Gaul. "There's a time when the message has been given. There's a time to stop," Mr. Chandick said. Mr. Sackett said Seven Hills should be allowed to enforce an ordinance enacted before Mr. Demjanjuk's return that bans all picketing directed at an individual in residential areas. "The defendants have one purpose and one purpose only, and that is to aggravate, to the best of their ability, one man," Mr. Sackett said. But Rabbi Avi Weiss, who has led many of the protests in the quiet, middle-class suburb, said a key part of free speech is the ability to choose where and when to speak.

Palestinian state inevitable-Kissinger

LONDON (R) — Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned Tuesday that negotiations towards a final Middle East peace settlement would be long and difficult but said he now believed a Palestinian state was inevitable.

"I have consistently opposed the idea of a Palestinian State," Dr. Kissinger, 70, said in a dinner speech.

"I must now tell you that it is inevitable that something with the attributes of a Palestinian state will develop... and that it is now foolish and inconsistent with what is being done to make a serious debate about that issue," he said.

While most Israelis want a peace settlement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the idea of a separate Palestinian state is still anathema to many Jews.

Dr. Kissinger, a German-born Jew who as U.S. secretary of state in the 1970s acted as a broker in Middle East diplomacy, hailed last month's Israeli-PLO agreement on interim Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho.

But he warned that the most difficult issues had still to be resolved in negotiations for a lasting peace settlement, including the status of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements, final borders and the political status of the Palestinian "entity."

"I think we are now at a moment of hope," he told the Institute of Jewish Affairs, a 50-year-old independent research body. Dr. Kissinger, known for his "shuttle diplomacy" flying from one capital to another, added: "We shouldn't be too euphoric."

He said: "We have to be ready for the fact that on many points they will stalemate..."

they will get more difficult.

"But I also believe that if we keep moving, not towards a dramatic culmination, but in a gradual systematic way... then a great breakthrough has been achieved."

Dr. Kissinger, who in 1974 forged a long-lasting disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, said a peace deal would be very difficult.

He said it would be better to proceed gradually with a series of interim agreements than go for a full peace deal at once and added that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad "does not believe in peace in the abstract."

Dr. Kissinger also called on the international community to contribute generously to the economic development of the region.

"I believe the outside world has a stake in significant economic development... in that region," he said. But he added that it must be done in such a way as to avoid appearing to be "substitute colonisation" by foreign powers.

The middle East has gained time, Israel has traded land, not for peace, but for time and for a new atmosphere, and in that period of time many other changes are going to occur," Dr. Kissinger said.

Dr. Kissinger said what was new was that "on the Israeli side there is a tremendous will for peace, maybe even an excessive euphoria."

"On the Arab side, hostility has changed, at least to ambivalence."

Dr. Kissinger said no contract or document would bring about peace in the Middle East, only "the experience of coexistence."



Henry Kissinger

"The new arrangement cannot possibly work unless methods of coexistence are worked out between the various Arab and Israeli institutions."

A three-cornered arrangement between Jordan, the PLO and Israel will require the utmost delicacy. Any collapse or disintegration of the Jordanian state is likely to produce an international crisis in the region," Dr. Kissinger said.

"Then there is the problem of Syria," which Israel has accused of supporting PLO factions opposed to the peace accord. President Assad, Dr. Kissinger said, "does not believe in peace in the abstract; it is not an operating concept for him."

The best approach to Syria, he said, is to make a series of "interim agreements... rather than attempt a final conclusive negotiation which I think is either not possible or will elicit too many technical issues and tensions."

Dr. Kissinger said there remain other regional uncertainties, including "the position of Iran and the threat it poses to moderate regimes in the Gulf" and risky attempts by some Gulf states to shrug off "institutions they inherited from their feudal past."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 Surprise Sur Price
19:00 News in French
19:15 Rencontre
19:30 News in Arabic
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Coach
21:00 Reasonable Doubts
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature Film "Indecency"

PRAYER TIMES

04:26 Fajr
05:44 (Sunrise) Dhuha
11:14 Dhur
14:26 Asr
16:55 Maghrib
18:13 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedfish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 83765
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 623726

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 694189

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

Weather

Forecast: It will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers. Temperatures will drop slightly and winds will be westerly to northwesterly. In the afternoon, it will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers and winds will be northwesterly to moderate and seas calm.

Mia/Amn. temp. 15/26

Amman 20/31

Aqaba 20/31

Deserts 14/28

Jordan Valley 19/32

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 28, Aqaba 33, Humidity reading: Amman 30 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Mahmoud Umair 888883

Dr. Mohammad Al Ghoul 707370

Dr. Jamal Al Ta'ani 76440

Dr. Youssef Nasir 71144

Firas pharmacy 661912

Ferdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Natroush pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Muhammad Al Hilla 279773

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Abdul Karim Al Khushashch 983023

Khalifah pharmacy 985417

Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53200

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 851228

Blood Bank 75121

Highway Police 8434

Employer claims he shot shepherd by mistake

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — A shepherd, shot accidentally by his employer, died Tuesday night when he felt the presence of a person nearby. M.E.A. told the police he thought the person was an intruder and started to call out at him. The other man did not respond and he started running away.

The employer told the police he ran after the person and when he still did not respond, he fired two shots at him. Police reports indicate that when the employer approached the body he discovered it was his shepherd, identified as A.H.H. The employer said he took the shepherd to Jerash Hospital in the hope of saving him. According to police, the shepherd died shortly afterwards. Police have taken the employer into custody pending further investigations into the case.

Inter-faith economic model is conceivable — expert

By Kathrine Rath
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the basic ethic tenets of Islam and Christianity are near to each other, a unified economic model between both religious worlds is therefore conceivable, concurred participants in the symposium on "Ethics in Economy: Euro-Arab Perspective," held earlier this week.

The crucial question is whether it is possible to put the theoretically thinkable economic model into practical use, said Robert Dobers, the representative of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Amman, an organizer of the 2-day event.

In an interview with the Jordan Times Wednesday, Mr. Dobers said it would be necessary to take into consideration and to accommodate regional particularities within such a model. In order to assess the applicability of the theory in practice, a detailed study of each country and their specific conditions would be needed, he said.

One of the purposes of the symposium, according to Mr. Dobers, was "to leave a bit of the mutual accusations and to see if it is possible to find common instruments with which we can judge each other's acting internationally."

Although stopping short of adopting a unified stand for further dialogue, the seminar provided a useful forum for exchanging ideas and arguments on Islamic and Christian values, said Mr. Dobers, who has been involved in inter-faith dialogue for 13-14 years.

"I think I have perceived the willingness and readiness to rethink even the concepts which are sacrosanct," he said, adding, however, that he did not rule out that this impression might be a product of wishful thinking on his part.

A large part of the symposium was spent discussing the different interpretations of Islamic rules among the Arab participants, and, in the view of Mr. Dobers, not enough time was devoted to the dialogue between the European and the Arab "camps."

Both in Islam and in Christianity, the principle of solidarity is central, and the Arab and European participants seemed to agree on the importance, for the economic order, of establishing an international solidarity.

Some of the Arab discussants pointed to the failure of the industrialized world to give sufficient help to the developing countries, citing this as an example of the lack of solidarity in the present economic order.

According to Mr. Dobers, however, states have an obligation to do their best to solve their domestic problems before appealing to the international community for assistance. He called this the principle of subsidiarity, which is taken to mean that what can be done on a lower level should not be done on a higher level.

Mr. Dobers sees this as equally important to the principle of solidarity. The responsibility of the different governments in the developing world for their own affairs was totally suppressed in the discussion, he said.

An important outcome of the Euro-Arab dialogue was the acquisition of a deeper knowledge about each other's economic thinking. Mr. Dobers said. But, he continued, "it is very important not to discuss without thinking how we can translate what is debated here into action."

He also pointed out that a democratic development with respect for human rights in the Islamic world would greatly facilitate a dialogue between the East and the West.

There is still a long way to go before a common basis can be established, but it is crucial to continue the road of dialogue, Mr. Dobers said, adding that "I, for my part, will not give up. If we want to avoid clashes in the future, we have to dialogue."

The symposium was organized by the Arab Thought Forum (ATF) and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung and included participants from Germany and several of Islamic countries in the Middle East.

Crown Prince proposes stronger cultural ties between Jordanian, German universities

Visiting German minister lauds Jordan's role in peace process

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday suggested that Germany and Jordan expand the scope of their cultural cooperation involving universities in both countries. During a meeting with visiting German Federal Minister of Education and Science Rainer Ortlieb, the Crown Prince also suggested that German institutions contribute to supporting the peace process in the Middle East.

Professor Ortlieb welcomed the ideas, voicing Germany's appreciation of Jordan's continued efforts to establish stability in the region.

Prince Hassan outlined the region's various developments and Jordan's stand and its continued backing of the peace process.

He praised German-Jordanian relations, expressing Jordan's hope to obtain more German expertise and assistance in developing vocational training programmes.

Professor Ortlieb earlier Wednesday discussed Middle East affairs with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Talal Al Satah Al Hassan and paid tribute to Jordan's stand which he said helped to achieve progress in the peace process. Without His Majesty King Hussein's diplomacy it would have been difficult to achieve this progress, said Professor Ortlieb.

He expressed Germany's pride in the strong relations between Jordan and Germany. In discussing the Arab-Israeli conflict of the past four decades, Mr. Hassan pointed to the economic difficulties and the heavy burdens Jordan has shouldered as a result.

Mr. Al Hassan added that the Kingdom will continue to play a key role in the peace efforts in implementation of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mr. Al Hassan voiced Jordan's appreciation of Germany's role within the European Community to back

peace efforts and its continued assistance to the Kingdom.

Professor Ortlieb also met with acting Minister of Higher Education Khaled Zoubi to discuss educational cooperation.

The German minister said both countries ought to continue to exchange expertise in this field as well as in vocational training.

Dr. Zoubi outlined the Kingdom's educational system and government plans to overhaul the school curricula, build new schools and promote teachers' efficiency and skills.

He said Jordan looks forward to new cultural agreements that would bolster bilateral cooperation.

Later Dr. Zoubi accompanied the German minister to the University of Jordan where the two officials met with President Fawzi Gharaibeh and deans of various faculties for an exchange of views on promoting bilateral academic and scientific cooperation.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Wednesday meets with visiting German Federal Minister of Education and Science Rainer Ortlieb (third from right) for talks on developments in the Middle East (Petra photo)

5 private schools adopt audiological review programme

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Five private schools in the Kingdom have adopted the Educational Audiological Review (EAR) programme, which was introduced by the Specialised Audiology Centre (SAC) at the beginning of this school year.

The programme aims to educate school teachers and parents on spotting, preventing and rehabilitating children with mild to severe hearing problems. The participating schools are the International Community School, Al Mashreq International School, Montessori School, Amman National School and the Amman Baccalaureate School.

"It is a prevention, early identification, diagnosis and early rehabilitation programme geared for teachers at schools in this country," said Manal Hamzeh, founder and director of SAC.

"It is going to teach teachers and parents to become good detectors and sensitive spotters of possible hearing problems throughout the school year, by educating them on the signs of hearing problems and providing them with written tools questionnaires that will help them identify those children at risk," Ms. Hamzeh said.

The programme consists of lectures presented by Ms. Hamzeh, an audiologist and speech pathologist, in which she provides the attendees with a checklist of behaviour patterns that are often characteristic of children with unidentified hearing loss. Teachers and parents can refer to it if they suspect a child may be showing signs of hearing problems.

A student with hearing loss, according to Ms. Hamzeh, will tend to be a slow learner; he/she may seem to daydream, hear inconsistently; frequently request repetitions; does not put endings

on words; is easily distracted; has difficulty reading; concentrates on people's faces when they are talking, and frequently gives answers unrelated to the subject.

Ms. Hamzeh told the Jordan Times that it is very important to focus on school children, in order to detect problems at their early stages, and treat them before they reach an advanced stage.

Paulen Walters, a teacher at the International Community School (ICS) since 1980, said that the programme revealed new and important information she never knew before.

"After listening to the audiologist and looking at the list, straight away I can pinpoint a child, and think to myself that I haven't been as much aware of this boy as I should," and "perhaps next time I will be more aware of him," said Ms. Walters, who teaches eighth and ninth grades.

The school nurse, Virginia Hazur said that there was a child who was suspected of having hearing problems, and the lecture proved to be a vital asset in determining a way to treat the child's problem.

"We have been waiting for the audiologist to come and talk to us because several teachers were questioning the hearing abilities of some of their students. Now we are going to be able to work and see if in fact such problems exist," said Ms. Hazur.

Wendy Batayneh, Head Teacher at ICS embraced the EAR programme, saying that it is a concern that people should be reminded of constantly and should be taken seriously.

"You could test all the children, but you wouldn't necessarily diagnose the problem. I found what Manal (the audiologist) said about ear infections and types of

fluctuating hearing problems that are hard to detect most worrying," said Mr. Batayneh.

She added that few schools in the Kingdom have a system whereby parents are encouraged to inform the school that their children have hearing infections or problems. When parents themselves are not aware that their children have ear infections, the children suffer and no one is aware of it, she said.

Ms. Hamzeh said the second step is to instruct teachers on how to deal with hearing problems. "After students are identified with a hearing problem and they are diagnosed and fitted with hearing aids and listening devices, we will guide the teachers on how to help those children in the classroom in a comprehensive and specific way," Ms. Hamzeh said.

Last year Al Mashreq started a new programme for children with special needs, said Cony Keilani the supervisor of the programme.

According to Ms. Keilani, the school accepts any child with any disability. She said the programme and the lectures provided by SAC are helping the school, which has two students with hearing disabilities.

"We want to work on developing the programme so it becomes possible to bring more children and educate them, so they will have the same rights other students enjoy," she said.

Manal Zakaria, a second grade teacher of Al Mashreq School said that the lecture increased her knowledge about the subject.

"After I listened to the lecture, I was able to live in the child's own atmosphere

and feel what a child with hearing problems would feel."

According to Ms. Hamzeh, most of the teachers in the

programme are very responsive to the lectures. They are assuming responsibility in this important area and taking it seriously, she said.

CONDOLENCES

The editor and staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing at the age of 65 of **Abdul Majid Abdul Ghani Amad**

brother of their friend and colleague Mohammad Amad, director general of the Jordan Press Foundation, and father of their friend and colleague Samir Amad, assistant head of the finance department.

May his soul rest in peace.

Visiting troupe brings hit comedy to Amman

By Ica Wabbeh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As part of a 10-week world tour that took them to the Gulf states and Egypt and will end with Far Asian countries (Malaysia, Taiwan, Hong Kong), the British Airways Theatre Playhouse troupe is in Amman where it will stage three performances of the comedy "Lend Me a Tenor."

The 10-member team of actors and technical staff, at a brief press conference after their arrival in Jordan, talked about the play, their previous performances which "were highly successful" and about the ones to be held in Amman "in a true Western presentation," as Alfred Masks, a member of the team put it.

The play, a hit comedy which was nominated for seven Tony Awards and the Best Comedy of the Year in the 1986 Laurence Olivier Awards, also won four Drama Desk Awards and three Outer Critics Circle Awards. It has

been performed throughout the world to eight languages. Its theme, much used in showbusiness, is that of the understudy who becomes a star overnight.

Written by American playwright Ken Ludwig, the play is set in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1934. A gala performance of Verdi's Othello is in jeopardy because the world famous tenor Tito Merelli has fallen into a drunken stupor and is presumed dead.

In total panic, the general manager of the opera company persuades his docile assistant with operatic ambitions to step in.

No one is aware of the switch. Unfortunately, the real tenor wakes up and puts on his own Othello costume and make-up and from then on confusion reigns as two identical Othellos are seduced by two beautiful swooning ladies and pursued by a jealous wife and an outrageous bellhop.

The play was originally presented in London by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

King visits Army Headquarters

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces Wednesday visited the Army Headquarters and met Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Lt.-Gen. Abdul Hafez Miral Al Kaabneh and his assistants. The King, who was accompanied on the visit by Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker.

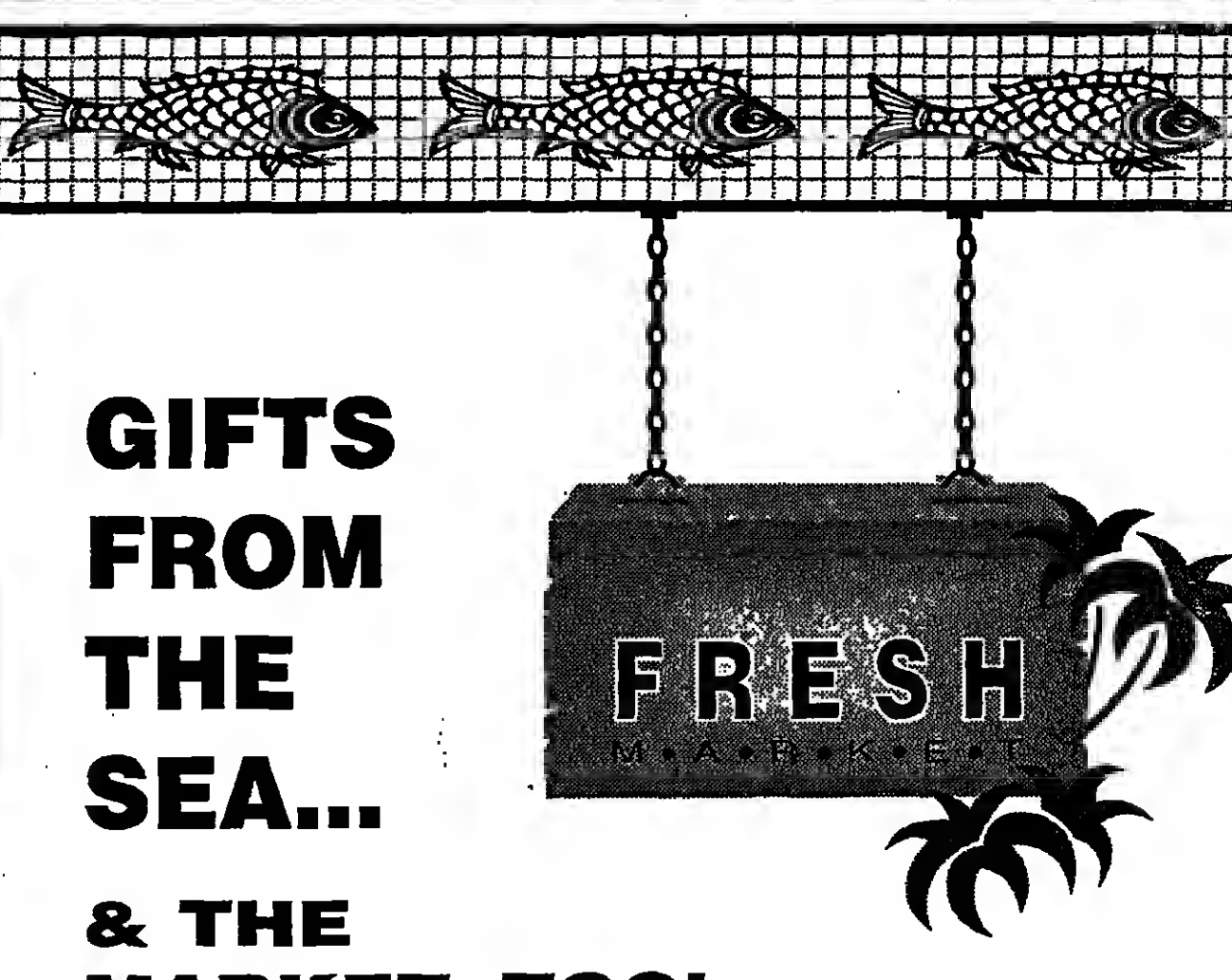
WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Bani Hamida fall exhibition: "Autumn Leaves" at the Jordan Contractors Association Building (near the American Embassy in Amman) 10:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
- ★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafzah and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Jerash gems by Paula Williams-Brown and portraits by Ahmad Ismail at the Gallery Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental (8:00 a.m. - 7 p.m. daily except Friday).
- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Mukhallad Al Mukhtar entitled "Colours on Black Paper" at La Casa Exhibitions Hall (5th Circle).
- ★ Photo and painting exhibition on environment at the University of Jordan Exhibition Hall.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sabah Haddi at the Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Art exhibition entitled "The Spirit of the Youth" by artist Muhammad Al Lahham at the Baladna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Farouq Lambaz at the Alia Art Gallery.
- ★ The Petra Exhibition — a presentation of the activities of Jordanian and international institutions involved in archaeological, ethnographic and environmental research in the Petra region at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by artists Mahmoud Taha and Salman Abbas at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of etchings by Mohammad Omar Khalil at Darat Al Fann of the Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lawelbeh. Also showing the permanent exhibition. Telephone 643251/2.

FILMS

- ★ Film entitled "Creepshow" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m. (120 minutes).



GIFTS FROM THE SEA... & THE MARKET, TOO!

Jordan Times

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Change for after Nov. 8

WHEN THE debate was raging over the virtues or disadvantages of introducing the concept of one-person, one-vote formula into the election law, the overwhelming argument was that the amendment would lead to strengthening of tribal candidates at the expense of political parties. Now half way through the election campaign it seems that the prediction is coming true. The Islamic Action Front, the highest and most organised political party, has adjusted itself to this fact and fielded its candidates from among leading tribes in the different constituencies as it largely did in 1989. But despite such tactics, only a few expect the front to retain the 23 seats the Muslim Brotherhood held in the Lower House. On the other hand, leftists have not completely adjusted to the tribal character of the campaign. Many leftist party leaders, unknowns outside the circle of political activism, have insisted on running for office themselves instead of using party members with tribal affiliations. Here also the leftists are not expected to improve on their strength in the last Parliament, around eight seats.

Given these projections the next Parliament will be dominated by tribal and family leaders who by the nature of things will be conservative, right of centre deputies. The make-up of the 12th Parliament will be of major significance to Jordan in the coming four years. If, as many expect, the new House will be more of a rubber stamp for government policies, then much depends on the type and character of the government that will deal with the new house. Given that Jordan, the region and the world at large are expected to continue to witness major changes on the political and economic fronts, the next government will be hard pressed to cope unless it is able and capable of translating the vision of our political leadership into concrete actions.

The emergence of a weaker opposition would certainly strengthen the hand of the next government in any commitment it makes and steps it takes to achieve peace on the basis of Jordanian national interests. However, it would be extremely dangerous to use any weakness by the opposition to undercut democracy and liberalisation of our society. Governments by nature, especially conservative ones tend to be autocratic. It is much easier to rule by decree than by consensus and through a docile parliament than a strong opposition. The danger inherent in this cannot be underestimated, since it can only lead to a radicalised opposition. The tasks that will face the post-election government will indeed be stupendous. But we are both hopeful and confident that the democratic march will be strengthened following the Nov. 8 polls. For one thing, our people can be counted on to send truly representative leaders to the next house. For another, the new deputies will have no option but to enliven the democratic debate and practice that we started with confidence four years ago.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Wednesday called for strong national unity at a time when the Kingdom is facing crucial events at the political and economic levels. Tareq Masarweh said that at this stage Jordanians have to dedicate their efforts and pool their resources for the sake of safeguarding the Jordanian interests first. This can be done through unity, closing of ranks and dedication on the part of the candidates running for elections, in order to serve their country first and to rally the voters and the public towards this goal. We want to see a Parliament that will give priority to Jordan's affairs and we want to see representatives of the people dealing with a host of issues on the domestic level, said the writer. He said that a host of draft laws and temporary laws await the coming Parliament and many of them are linked to the daily life of the Jordanians. Through the political parties and the media, all efforts should be pooled to cater to the needs of the Jordanians first and foremost, before tackling regional issues. The writer urged Jordanians to vote in the Nov. 8 elections and to elect only those candidates who are giving attention to Jordanian issues first. He said the military power of the imperialist countries and hostile forces can not stop the people from speaking out their feelings and their views, nor can any external force divert the Jordanians from their nationalist stand.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily suggested that the official media in Jordan should follow the example of the Moroccan media in the course of ensuring free and fair elections. The Moroccan Television contributed positively towards the last parliamentary elections by assigning two full hours daily to focus attention on the candidates, said Mahmoud Rimawi.

Implications of the PLO-Israel accord on Jordan

By Dr. Marwan Muasher

The writer is director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington and spokesman for the Jordanian delegation at Middle East peace negotiations. The following address was delivered by Dr. Muasher to the annual conference of the Arab American University Graduates.

The initial Jordanian reaction to the announcement of the PLO-Israel accord quickly gave way to an in-depth evaluation of the longer implications of the accord on Jordan. The apprehension expressed initially by Jordan partly due to the element of surprise and partly due to Amman's perception that a role had been already defined for Jordan in the accord without its consultation was transcended by the conclusion that a successful implementation of the accord is indeed in Jordan's national interest. Hence the pro-active role that Jordan intends to play.

Contrary to arguments brought by some analysts and members of the western press that the accord marginalises Jordan's role in the peace process and even poses an existential problem for the future of the country, the fact is that Jordan has since the inception of the present peace process called for direct negotiations between the PLO and Israel and held the view that negotiations regarding the future of the West Bank and Gaza are to be done solely by the Palestinians. The umbrella Jordan provided in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation formula was intended to enable the Palestinians to participate in the peace talks and represent themselves and not to allow it to play a "big brother" role. In fact, Jordan and the Palestinians insisted, following the Madrid conference, on conducting the negotiations on two separate tracks: Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli. Jordan has long stated that it supports any agreement that the Palestinians negotiate for themselves, since it is the future of Palestinian generations who will live with that

agreement.

A more careful study of the accord from the Jordanian viewpoint reveals that the role which the accord envisions for Jordan is not a pre-set or rigid one. Rather, it is stated as an invitation for Jordan to help define the role it will play in the implementation of the accord, particularly with regard to the return of refugees and the movement of people across the bridges. Let me try to examine what the signing of the accord has meant for Jordan from a demographic, economic and, most importantly, political perspective.

"In a region where the per capita income of Palestinians and Jordanians is less than 20 per cent that of Israelis, the task of securing all the possible financial, technical and human resources to address such economic disparities becomes paramount in a world where different regions are competing for an ever decreasing foreign aid pie."

The accord opens the way, for the first time since 1948, for the possibility of return of refugees from Jordan, as well as other countries, to the West Bank and Gaza, even while deferring the fate of 1948 refugees till later. Since 1948, Jordan has received successive waves of refugees, displaced Palestinians and returnees that amount to one third of its population, a total of 1.7 million out of a popula-

tion of 4 million. Of those displaced people, today only 283,000 remain in camps in Jordan. The country has therefore absorbed 1.4 million people at a heavy financial cost. While grants from Arab countries helped a great deal, aid from other countries was mainly on a loan basis. Therefore, the return of any agreed number of displaced persons to a Palestinian entity would help ease Jordan's demographic burden in addition to opening the way for discussion of the larger refugee issue, which is high on Jordan's own bilateral agenda with Israel.

Of the 800,000 displaced persons and their descendants who fled from the West Bank and Gaza because of the 1967 war, more than 600,000 reside today in Jordan. We thus cannot stand on the sidelines while an accord attempts to deal with a category of refugees who are largely in Jordan today.

The economic development of the West Bank and Gaza over the next five years and beyond will affect Jordan in several ways. Since the Jordanian and Palestinian economies have links tying them together, and as the economy of the West Bank and Gaza attempts a relink with the economies of Arab countries, Jordan can play a central role in helping channel funds through its financial institutions to the West Bank and Gaza, particularly as the Jordanian dinar is and will continue to be the major legal tender there, at least during the interim period.

As a first step in preparing for this, Jordan has drafted an economic cooperation agreement with the PLO to coordinate economic activity between Jordan and the West Bank and Gaza during the interim period. This agreement, which is in the process of being ratified by both sides, stipulates that the Jordanian dinar will continue to be the legal tender in the West Bank and Gaza during the interim period and designate the Central Bank of Jordan to manage money and banking in the West Bank and Gaza during the interim period including the reopen-

ing of Jordanian banks' branches, new bank and finance companies, money changers, bank supervision and control and management of reserves.

In the area of trade, the two sides agreed to facilitate trade and increase its volume to at least \$300 million during the first year. Other areas covered in the agreement include manpower, tourism, promoting investments, taxation, health, agriculture and infrastructure.

We realise that one of the first building blocks of peace is the upgrading of the quality of life for all those burdened by the occupation. In a region where the per capita income of Palestinians and Jordanians is less than 20 per cent that of Israelis, the task of securing all the possible financial, technical and human resources to address such economic disparities becomes paramount in a world where different regions are competing for an ever decreasing foreign aid pie. Jordan thus participated in the Donors' Conference that took place on Oct. 1, 1993, in Washington to support the West Bank and Gaza and was the only Arab country in the bilateral talks to do so.

At the same time, Jordan believes that a plan of economic development in the area should have as one of its principal objectives human resource development throughout the region, cutting across borders. Thus, while Jordan wholeheartedly supports the efforts under way to develop the West Bank and Gaza, it feels that it is time to draw attention to the Kingdom's own suffering as a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The three successive waves of refugees that Jordan received, and all the cost incurred in absorbing them, have resulted today in a heavy foreign debt overhang of around \$7 billion, one of the largest per capita in the world. Palestinian refugees, particularly those in Jordan, cannot watch idly and be expected to support the peace process while efforts to develop the region overlook them.

Several efforts are under way to achieve this goal. The

World Bank has acknowledged Jordan's problems and is organising a mission to assess Jordan's needs. Jordan has also formed a trilateral committee with Israel and the United States to coordinate regional cooperation and regional projects. President Clinton committed the U.S. publicly to support Jordan in relieving part of its debt.

We believe that such a regional approach to the economic problems of the area, and a commitment to human resource development, would result in a holistic concept of security — one that trans-

"We believe that such a regional approach to the economic problems of the area, and a commitment to human resource development, would result in a holistic concept of security — one that transcends the traditional definition of military security to encompass political and economic security as the true guarantors of a durable settlement."

cends the traditional definition of military security to encompass political and economic security as the true guarantors of a durable settlement.

One of the most important results of the accord for Jordan is that it has placed the territorial issue where it belongs: on Palestinian soil. The absurd argument that "Jordan is Palestine", advocated by many in Israel and

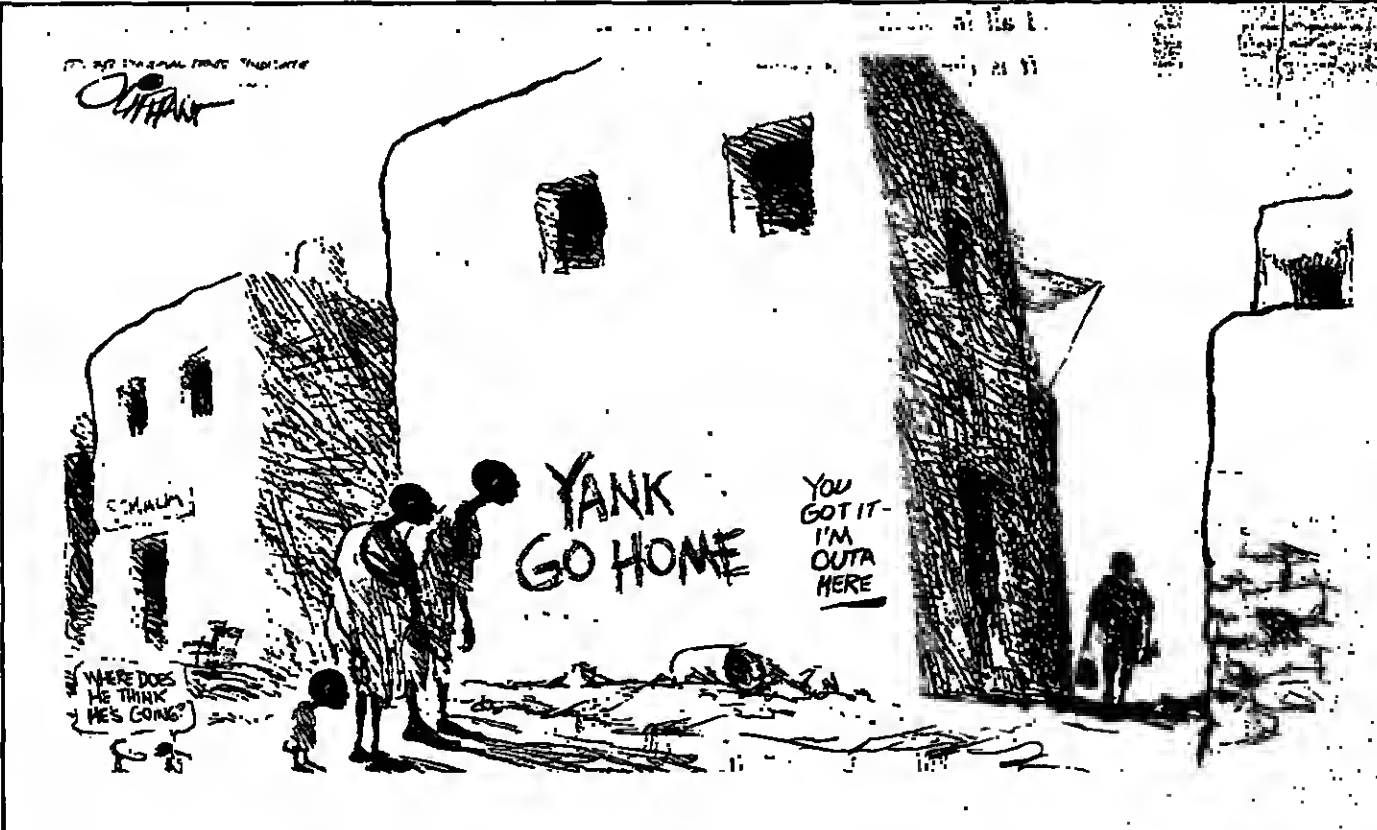
echoed by some in the U.S. for a number of years, can finally be put to rest. Furthermore, by recognising the Palestinians as a people with legitimate political rights, the accord has set the ground for the emergence of a clear Palestinian political identity on its national soil.

Thus, the identity crisis that many Jordanians of Palestinian origin feel today as a result of the continuation of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the suppression of a Palestinian national identity can now be resolved once a clear delineation between the Jordanian and Palestinian national identities is effected.

In Jordan, we have embarked on a political reform process where Jordanians of all origins can participate in the decision-making process of the country in a pluralistic and democratic way, where all political views can be expressed and represented. The emergence of a Palestinian national identity can only positively contribute to this process while, at the same time, allowing for a solid and special relation to continue to exist and develop between Jordan and the future Palestinian entity.

To be sure, the accord is only a beginning. Jordan believes in a comprehensive settlement where agreements would be reached on all issues within a track and on all tracks: Syrian, Lebanese, Palestinian and Jordanian. Jordan is committed not to sign a separate peace agreement with Israel because without such a comprehensive settlement, real and lasting peace would not be achieved.

The PLO-Israel accord, as is the case with the common agenda reached between Jordan and Israel, is seen as the first step on the road to a comprehensive settlement. It is clear today that there is an international willingness and commitment to ensure a successful implementation of the accord. Jordan believes that the way to do that is by assuming a pro-active role of extending all possible support, to the Palestinians while working to preserve Jordan's interests.



Bleak future for Somalis, Balkans — officials

By Evelyn Leopold
Reuters

PRINCETON, N.J. — Following the euphoria of an invigorated United Nations in the post cold war world, senior U.N. officials fear a bleak future in coping with Somalia after the American pullout and in the Balkans where a peace settlement appears nowhere in sight.

Both missions, the largest existing operations and the only ventures mandated to use force, came under scrutiny at a weekend Princeton University conference attended by high-level U.N. officials, ambassadors, academics and opinion-makers.

In Somalia, the top U.N. peacekeeping official questioned whether troops would remain once the United States withdrew on March 31 and in the former Yugoslavia senior envoys predicted a widening of the war between Serbs and Croats in Croatia.

Kofi Annan, the top U.N. official in charge of peacekeeping, feared that if the international community — the United States in particular — was not willing to sustain casualties the wrong signal would be given in future ventures.

He disclosed that Mr. Clinton had sent a letter to more than 30 troop contributors currently in Somalia asking them

to stay on once the United States pulled out.

"Other prime ministers, presidents, may find it difficult to explain to their constituents that the American president is withdrawing his troops because it is dangerous, but he is encouraging them to send theirs," he said.

"Having gone through a form of 'reality therapy' in Mogadishu, will the international community continue to have the stomach for such humanitarian interventions?" he asked.

"Can humanitarian objectives be fulfilled at the point of a gun? If not, can the international community, by inaction, condone that status quo and condemn hundreds of thousands of civilians to death by default?"

Sadako Ogata, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), a sponsor of the conference along with Olaf Otunnu, president of the private International Peace Academy, questioned how much longer the Balkan mission could continue without a political solution.

Ms. Ogata, while gathering supplies for the coming winter in Bosnia, asked how long UNHCR could go on saving victims "without damaging its image, credibility and principles and the self-respect of its staff in the face of manipula-

tion, blackmail, abuse, humiliation and murder."

Cedric Thornberry, ending his term as deputy head of the U.N. Protection Force in the former Yugoslavia, predicted that the worst was yet ahead.

While the world was concentrating on the Bosnian war, Serbs and Croats in Croatia could very well renew large-scale fighting this winter. He said the underlying conflict between the two communities was the basis of the war and had received far too little attention.

Instead UNPROFOR was "riding shotgun" for humanitarian convoys but was expected by the world's media to end the war with ridiculously limited resources.

"The brutal fact of life is that there is no light brigade with John Wayne galloping heroically to the rescue in the last reel. I am beginning to suspect there may not even be a last reel," he said.

The hard fact is that the international community has been more generous with Security Council mandates than with resources," he said, adding that UNPROFOR is a result of the "somebody must be doing something" syndrome.

The former UNHCR envoy in the Balkans, Jose-Maria Meniluce, gave an even more negative assessment, question-

ing the purpose of a mission that raised false expectations.

"More than 200,000 people killed, 4.2 million victims, hundreds of thousands trapped, hundreds of villages destroyed, thousands of women raped are signals impressive enough to seriously question the 'success' of a strategy based on a massive humanitarian operation and a process of negotiations without the readiness to intervene in a more decisive manner," said Mr. Meniluce.

Many participants, including Mr. Thornberry, blamed the United Nations and the Security Council for conflicting signals on Yugoslavia and Somalia. But none agreed with Mr. Clinton that mistakes in Somalia were committed by the United Nations alone without the knowledge and participation of Washington.

The dilemma facing the experts was whether or under which conditions an "integrated" mission of humanitarian operations, nation-building and military deployment would be successful or whether the United Nations should set more modest goals.

According to British Ambassador David Hannay, the new approach of combining tasks may not work in all cases, such as in Somalia, but total separation, as in Angola, a failed operation, was "certainly out of the question."

LETTERS

Shocking column

To the Editor:

It is the same mixture of fascination and horror that compels me to read E. Yaghi's weekly contributions as that which makes me take rides on roller coasters or visit "haunted houses". Ms. Yaghi's style and choice of content are her own prerogative and can usually be shrugged off and disregarded as soon as one has finished wading through her creative sentence structure, and innovative choice of words.

However, after having read "The infamous secretary" (Jordan Times, weekend, Oct. 21-22, 1993), I was enraged and shocked. The column is highly offensive not only to secretaries, but to all working women. To imply that a working woman's main interests are her looks at the workplace, gossip and "catching a man" is derogatory and downright sexist. In Jordan in particular, we are proud of the high level of female education and our national policy, as well as our National Charter encourage all citizens to participate in the development of our society to their best ability.

In my profession I deal with secretaries, in my own office as well as at other institutions, on daily basis. I have never met a secretary who was rude or anything less than hard working and serious. In today's competitive world, a woman who resembles the one described by E. Yaghi would not last a day. However, I strongly doubt that such a person exists anywhere outside comic books, sexist jokes and E. Yaghi's vivid imagination.

Around the world secretaries are mostly female, often overworked, usually underpaid and never fully appreciated. We need them as no office could exist without them. Therefore, let us aim to encourage, rather than discourage and insult, them.

Cosima Hadidi,
Amman.

Useful tips

To the Editor:

With reference to the letter "Unacceptable behaviour" (Jordan Times, Oct. 25, 1993) regarding irresponsible behaviour by horsemen in Petra, I must point out that each horse is supposed to wear a number in a prominent position on either side of its neck. This is precisely so that anybody having any complaints can report that number themselves to the Petra director of tourism in the Visitors' Centre, with a clear request that the horseman be disciplined. Each one has a licence, file and identification photo in the office.

If the number is not, for some reason displayed, tourists are perfectly entitled to ask where it is. I would suggest to the Ministry of Tourism in Amman that notices be displayed at the entrance gate to Petra and by the mounting-block to let tourists know they should note and memorise their horse's number, and also that all owners must display the numbers where they can be clearly seen.

Miss Chris Larter,
P.O. Box 140508,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address, as well. Names can be withheld upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Shomali — in search of universality

By Ica Wabbah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The man raises his hand, shouts "action" and the camera starts rolling.

The set is alive with actors, props, activity and the ubiquitous, implacable camera on its tripod.

Nabil Shomali is shooting his future letters of introduction and, he hopes, his universality.

President of the Jordanian Filmmakers' Forum, director of well-known TV educational shows, like Al Manahel (for children) or Keyfa Akhawatuha (for adults), and of many TV films and series, Mr. Shomali decided that television was not what he wanted to do to assert himself.

And he stopped it because "you cannot do anything in the unprofessional atmosphere where the producer, the man who spends the money, prefers to go cheap and ends up with poor quality."

Aspiring to fame and immortality, the ambitious young producer who studied filmmaking in Prague, Czechoslovakia, and worked for a long time in the theatre before studying, has thoroughly prepared for his production, hoping to create highly competitive short films.

"No art can be done in this way (on a shoestring budget) for the future. To survive you either find your way or quit and do something else, sell tomatoes," the disgruntled producer says.

A freelancer for television for quite some time, he decided "TV is a waste of time and energy, where there is no appreciation and where the producer complains about spending and about every extra hour needed to shoot for quality."

With no cinema industry in Jordan, he might be a pioneer. "I am doing the films because nobody looks after cinema here. All cinema equipment is junk. Media is not concerned about cinema," Mr. Shomali says cynically.

Careful not to step in the footsteps of those he crit-

cises, the 40-year-old producer says he chose qualified people to do the job, "financed everything for good films" and did minuscule preparations for the same end.

"Everything was drawn. Every shot was sketched. You cannot create while shooting. I do not believe in spontaneity here, creativity should be done on paper."

The result, three 5-minute-long movies, are in progress, with shooting expected to finish by mid-December.

With no dialogue — only music and sound effect — the films are intended to be universal, "for anybody, anywhere."

Cryptic, existentialist, symbolic, they can challenge the intellect and remind of works from classical literature, but can also be received on a simple level, easy to relate to on a day-to-day life basis.

Good Morning, the script of which was written by Nabil Shomali, is a directed by him and Ali Karim Abdul Jalila who is studying filmmaking in Italy.

Shot in parallel, wo-

scenes // eventually merge in an unexpected climax.

The clock strikes six, in the morning, and a child is awoken, his parents who dote on him lovingly. Somewhere a soldier wakes up and after their rifles with real affection. The child washed, combed and set off by his parents in a five mood. He will meet their children and play happily until the soldiers lined for an execution and shoot the child. A clock strikes six again; another morning starts, life continues its unperpetual cycle.

Violence is witnessed in a movie, only the guns can be heard firing. Soldiers a chosen handsome, not identified with ugliness and violence. Everything is implied. But why kill children?

"As a parent, you do not want to believe that you will kill your child. You do it without knowing, by sending him to the outside world unprepared. If you do not have an attitude against war, you kill them, if you do not prepare them for life, you kill them," says Mr. Shomali who does not claim to give lessons, but to raise issues.



Nabil Shomali and Bino Mottola in action

A theme that can be easier to recognise by his conationals, is that tackled in the movie The Dress.

A young girl, wearing a beautiful, flowery dress, is playing with other girls out in the open spaces. The wind blows freely in her hair, she enjoys nature and freedom. Until, that is, her father comes to take her home. There, all women are wearing long, black dresses. The father, worried, watches her body. She has grown, reaching the age when women do not wear but the shapeless black cloth. The women tie the girl's hair in a bun, take off her coloured dress and make her wear the black one. A black scarf is put on her head and, at the end of the movie, from behind the bars of a window, one can see a girl looking out, dressed all in black.

It is the end of a cycle, when childhood and freedom are killed by the social constraints.

The original story was written by Jordanian Jawaher Raftah. Mr. Shomali wrote the screenplay and directed the movie. He does not want to give any religious connotations to the movie. It is purely a social matter, he says, and as far as we know, it could easily be placed anywhere around the Mediterranean basin, parts of Asia and even Europe.

A more existentialist subject, the incapability to communicate and find one's place in the society, is that of The Discovery.

The original story by Jordanian Mohammad Tomalleh speaks of a man incapable to do simple acts of life, in an absurd sort of way.

The man, in a meeting at a round table, tries to communicate with those around him, but cannot; tries to go to the toilet, but cannot; tries to move left or right, but cannot as he hits someone all the time. The others are too far, so to find out what the barrier is he (ironically) takes off his glasses, in which the table is re-

flected all the time, and peers under it. He sees hundreds of legs.

It is a simple message about a world where it is very hard, and progressively impossible, to communicate, to create "political, social, economic relationships. The world is very crowded, the man cannot find a place for himself," says the director.

The table, huge and out somewhere, in the middle of nowhere, has black and white concentric circles painted on its surface. It is meant to suggest a vortex, says the producer, one where, perhaps, human life is sucked in with no possibility to extricate itself and doomed to turn around forever.

"You can interpret it the way you want," says Mr. Shomali. "I only present the themes." They seem to be powerful and well constructed.

The actors are all Jordanians. The cameraman is young Italian Bino Mottola, 27, who is, despite his age, "a good professional, with pretty much experience."

Why this choice of a cameraman?

"I wanted professional

filming. I want to make films for the world and I need quality," says Mr. Shomali, who does not mind his words.

Shooting was done in Jordan, but not the developing and editing, which will be done in Italy.

The films will start being marketed at the beginning of 1994 when they will be shown for the first time in Rome.

"I want to show that the Third World has ideas. Then, maybe, the others will appreciate us and eventually support us. These are meant to be keys for other films. There will be ideas for more short films until we can make feature films," says Mr. Shomali.

If the budget was vaguely touched in the interview, the technical information was plentiful. And as a matter of curiosity (and to appreciate the hard work), we found out that it takes at least four days (eight-hour workday) for each five-minute movie.

And if the films make as forceful a debut on the world stage as their producer talks about his beliefs and career, it is doubtful they will fail to assert themselves.



The set is set for shooting Somewhere In The Middle Of Nowhere

Love parents doting on their child (as in Good Morning)



End of childhood and freedom

What do Ammanites read?

By Maammad Masharqa

A survey conducted by Al Ra'i Arabic daily covering students from community colleges and the University of Jordan, as well as main bookstores has revealed that 43 per cent of the adults buy religious books and 36 per cent read political and ideological publications. Literary and poetry books as well as books about theatre and literary criticism comes at the bottom of scale of interest.

Proprietors bookshops agree that reading in Jordan is not as popular as in neighbouring countries. They say this is due to a number of reasons primarily the economic situation and the exorbitant prices of good books.

Religious books comparatively cost less to buy because their publications receive subsidy from the Gulf states or other Islamic countries.

Abdul Rahim Omar

The cultural and literary community in Jordan this week paid tribute to the late writer and journalist Abdul Rahim Omar. A eulogy for the late Mr. Omar was held marking the 40 days after his passing away of a

heart attack. Senate members and former ministers as well as Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz were among the key speakers to eulogise the late Mr. Omar. Late Mr. Omar was a key figure among the literary movement in the Arab World and his poetry which won him fame in the early 1960s was considered by critics as a departure from the traditional Arabic verse.

Amman Cultural Pulse

Among those paying tribute to the late Mr. Omar were writers Munes Razzaq and Mohammad Smadi from the Writers Association who tackled Mr. Omar's contribution to Jordanian theatre and short story writing. They particularly paid tribute to his role in laying the groundwork for children's theatre in Jordan.

The local press eulogised Mr. Omar paying tribute to his valuable contributions to journalism in Jordan and the themes of his writings in which he called for freedom social justice and progress for the Arab Nation.

Abstract and Impressionist art

Farouk Lambaf, one of Jordan's most prominent impressionist artists, opened his ninth exhibition this

week at the Alia Art Gallery.

Critics believe that some of his works this time represented a qualitative step forward and an improvement on his earlier works featuring impressions about man and the environment of Jordan.

A critic of Lambaf art, Iraqi artist Mohammad Mukhtar, said that the impressionist school has deeply affected the work of Lambaf who presents paintings considered as a departure from the traditional line, noting that the colours and the shades are in astounding harmony. "Lambaf could be considered as one of the most prominent Jordanian artists," Mukhtar added.

In November, Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Zreig will present his exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre displaying 70 paintings.

Abu Zreig, who has been involved in art for the past 20 years, says the paintings will reflect his new experiments.

At the Orfalli Art Gallery in Um Uthaina, Iraqi artist Ali Minar opened his exhibition depicting Arabian horses in different positions and against different back-grounds.

Diary

THE RIGHT TO KNOW; A TWO-FACED PROPOSAL: The Press and Publications Department has presented local journalists with a free gift that is expected to guide their writing in the era of democracy. The small booklet lists excerpts from laws that can be used in cases against journalists in a court of law. "To facilitate things for our colleagues the journalists, and to clarify the signposts on the road ahead of them as they carry the message of their responsibility, we have assigned our legal experts to collect all the articles of the law which touch upon the crimes in press and publications mentioned in other laws as well as the sentences which were not mentioned in the new Press and Publications Law." Of course, the 12-page booklet is highly beneficial to those working in the press, since it specifies all that kind of information that you cannot publish. But as one journalist remarked: "The department perhaps should have sent us a booklet detailing the articles which make it punishable by law to withhold information from the press and deny the public the right to know."

★ ★ ★

THE POWER OF THE LAW: The business of banning employees of the government from writing in local newspapers has received adequate coverage in local papers since it touched on well-known columnists. But this ban has apparently taken a turn for the better. A young woman employee of the Ministry of Municipalities sent a letter to one of the Arabic dailies which was later — two months later in fact — published in a column that carries public opinion. The minister, who had heard of the law, did not miss the chance and sent the employee a letter of warning.

★ ★ ★

EXCITED BY CHANGE: The secretary general of the Lower House of Parliament, Saleh Zubi, is so excited about the prospect of having deputies arguing under the dome again and the reporters covering their debates that he had already approached editors of local newspapers, in official letters, asking them to name "the editors in chief" who will attend the opening ceremony of the 12th Parliament. Some editors took it to mean that Mr. Zubi might have known something which others did not. That new editors would be replacing them and is sending a hint. But it apparently is only a typing mistake.

★ ★ ★

MASS MURDER IN BALQA: But not of Saltis we might add. The victims, all 5,300 of them, died in their infancy and the Public Security Department felt that they deserved mention in the crime columns. That is why the newspaper's crime correspondent got a news brief this week of a fire in a farm in Balqa during which 5,300 chicks died. Chicks as in small chicken. The real news was that upon investigation, the accident was considered a result of "fate and divine decree."

Nermeen Murad



Greater safety for special seat made in children in cars: a Germany.

Children need reliable protection

COLOGNE — Taking little children in cars has become a source of danger — and not only in Germany. At a figure of 38 per cent, "accidents as passengers" accounts for the largest proportion of fatal accidents to children. Consequently, since April 1993 "Universal Compulsory Protection" of children in cars has been in force in Germany.

A survey by the Deutsche Verkehrswacht has brought to light the fact that the parents of small children were often unaware of the danger. 56 per cent of those asked regarded cycling as the primary source of mortal danger, 35 per cent "playing outside the home." A comparison of various "dangerousness assessments" with the accident figures of young children suggests that, despite all informative campaigns

so far, parents are careless

in cars. What is more, in the East German Bundesländer (federal states), many cars do not have any form of children's safety system; many cars of older eastern manufacture do not even have a safety-belt.

The new regulation makes "support devices" compulsory for little children under 12 years of age. In the case of an accident, even at a speed of 30 kilometres an hour, an unprotected small child is hurtled through the car like a missile. The various properly fitting children's safety seats cost between DM 30 and 200. For 96 per cent of all adults, fastening one's safety-belt has long been a matter of course. In the meantime, people in Germany have come to realise that one doesn't have to buy everything. It can be hired, too — Inter Naciones.

In harmony with technology

By Jean-Claude Elias

Technology is a dangerous weapon. Not intrinsically but because man is unable to live in harmony with it. Long driving hours, on a daily basis, can harm your back, but can you live without a car? Can you find the time to use your God-given feet and walk to your office? Children left on their own can watch TV for six, eight or even ten hours in a row, on holidays. Can parents teach them to be reasonable and live with two hours a day only? No, they probably have to take drastic measures and prevent them from any viewing at all.

There are basically two reasons why people cannot find a satisfactory "modus vivendi" with technology. The first one is that it is moving so fast that we don't have the time to stop and think of the best way to use it. We just follow it and try to keep up with new developments. The second one is that the industry is obviously too interested in selling us the hardware and software it is producing to ask us to be reasonable or refrain from any abuse.

Computers are no exception. Take word processors for instance. We have them and are ready to jump and start typing in any document, be it a 50-page business report or a couple of paragraphs of a simple letter we are sending to a dear friend. Common sense would tell us that our friend would rather read our handwriting than the printout of even the best laser printer. Seeing someone's familiar hand writing is half of the pleasure of receiving a personal letter.

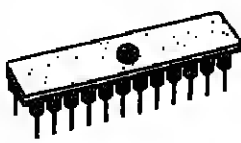
Among the current abuses in personal computing is the communication trend via computer based fax facilities, modems and local area networks (LANs).

The possibility to contact other computer users, fax machines or networks from your desk has opened new horizons to many a computer operator. In the United States the number of people working from their home without having to leave their room has steadily grown over the past five years. They can reach anyone they want, banks, companies, friends, wherever they are, from their personal computer (PC).

They can do their work and then send it instantly via modem or fax. So much time is saved and at least as much personal touch is lost.

In large corporations equipped with PC LAN, you can send a message or a document to your colleague

chip talk



whose desk is only 30 feet from yours, without leaving your chair. Similarly he or she can read information from your PC without having to get up and take them physically from you. It is amazing how people accept to be caught for hours in traffic jams, waste precious time in delayed flights when travelling, but try to save insignificant seconds by using faster computers.

When analysts undertake a computerisation study, they usually care about how far can they go in their project. How much can be done with or put on computers? They often neglect essential questions: Is it worth doing it with PCs? Isn't it more interesting to leave this part of the work to be done manually? What do we gain from computerising it?

LANs are fantastic tools that allow a very efficient and useful sharing of the data on different PCs. They also save disk space and resources. However, like most technology innovations, they tend to isolate people.

It usually takes one or two generations before we realise the negative effects of a newly introduced technology. Only then do we start to worry and try to find a cure. Haven't we learned enough from car pollution, nuclear waste and ozone layer depletion? Can't we take preventive measures?

Yes, excessive reliance on computers communication possibilities can create a state of isolation of the user that could lead to unpredictable problems for society. The human, personal contact is not yet out-of-fashion. Why do kings, presidents and foreign ministers travel and meet when they have all the electronic communication facilities to discuss any topic from their office? There must be some difference.

Users of PC based fax, modems and LANs have some thinking to do before turning to modern age hermits.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

- ★ In certain breeds of sheep, extra fat is stored in the tail.
- ★ In the early days coffee was considered a cure for almost any type of ailment.
- ★ There is no 'u' in the Latin alphabet.
- ★ One quintillion is written, 1,000,000,000,000,000.
- ★ Identical twins always have the same colour eyes.
- ★ In Dallas, Texas, if a barking dog disturbs the neighbours, it is considered a misdemeanour.
- ★ President Franklin Pierce of (USA) was a heavy drinker. He did not stop drinking entirely until he formally joined the Episcopal Church about two years before he died.
- ★ Napoleon was morbidly afraid of cats.

★★★★★

LET'S LEARN ARABIC

Times

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| — At dawn. | Indal fajr. |
| — At noon. | Indal zuhr. |
| — In the morning. | Fis sabah. |
| — In the evening. | Fil massaa. |
| — At night. | Indal-lail/Lailan. |
| — At midday. | Inda montasaf en-nahar. |
| — At midnight. | Inda montasaf el-lail. |
| — In time. | Fil-wakt el-monasib. |
| — At the fixed time. | Fil-wakt el-mohaddad. |
| — It's still early. | Ma zai al wakt mohakkir. |
| — It's too late. | Al wakt mota akhir jiddan. |
| — It's six o'clock. | As saa sita. |
| — It's half past six. | As saa sita wa nisf. |
| — It's a quarter past one. | As saa wahda wa rub. |
| — It's ten past five. | As saa khamisa wa ashro daka 'ik. |
| — It's three to ten. | As saa ashrun illa talat daka 'ik. |
| — It's day. | Tala'an nahar. |
| — It's twenty to seven. | As saa al sabi'a illa toll. |
| — You're an hour late. | Ta akharta sa'a wahida. |
| — I'll finish it within a month. | Sa onhi zalik fee shahr wahid. |
| — Time tries all. | Al ayyam baynana. |
| — We'll meet soon, without fail. | Sanallaki karrehan insha' Allah. |

★★★★★

TIME FOR FUN

Thrifty to the bone

- ★ Feeling poorly, a woman met a doctor in the street and decided to get his advice free.
- "Doctor, I don't feel well. I have no appetite and have dizzy fits; be so good to jot down a prescription for me."
- "With pleasure," answered the doctor, "but you must undress first, so that I can examine you!"

★★★★★

- ★ The teacher was lecturing on sulphuric acid.

"Children, now I'll drop this gold coin in the acid. Tell me, will it be damaged?"
 "No," one of the pupils replied.
 "Why not?"
 "Because you wouldn't drop it in, if it would!"

★★★★★

YOUR DREAMS INTERPRETED

MILLIONAIRE: This is not a dream of contrary, but its meaning is modified by its details. If you dream of being a millionaire, you are likely to profit indirectly from a past favour freely given. If, in your dream, you used your money to help your family, friends, or worthy causes, you can count on a stroke of good luck being just around the corner. A dream of meeting a millionaire is a caution to listen to wiser heads before making a new commitment.

★★★★★

PUZZLES

Jumbled words

- (A) Do you know what to do with "Jumbled words"? You have to unjumble them! So if you are given, for example, the letter **AHAAMENT**, you will find that when they are re-arranged, they make the word **ANATHEMA**. Here are unjumble for you to do on your own:
- JOYDRAPE.
 - AAACNNOD.
 - NOTASUGAR.
 - PELLESSNESSES.

- (B) Painting ladder
 The Mona Lisa is the world's most valuable painting. Can you change MONA to LISA by changing one letter at a time?
 Each line MUST SPELL a word.

M	O	N	A
L	I	S	A

Betrayal

By E. Yaghi

On a black night in the heat of summer six figures stealthily crept to the nearest home on the outskirts of a crowded refugee camp in Gaza. One of the hooded members rapped softly on the wooden door of an unlit house and a middle-aged woman opened, suspiciously eyed the secret looking group and whispered, "Yes? What do you want?"

The shrouded one who had knocked on the door stepped back and in a deep low voice answered: "Please, this is an emergency! We need shelter for the night!"

She asked no more questions and with a nod of her head, beckoned them in. Seeking refuge was not uncommon and all faithful supporters of the Intifada expected that at one time or another, someone would need shelter. As she quickly looked about the neighbourhood, she was also not surprised to note that all the other residents of the refugee camp had the lights turned off too. The street lights had been cut off long ago and there, no telephone lines linked the camp with the rest of the occupied country. At night, the camp life on the appearance of a desolate ghost town. Only the hall hospital holding one hundred beds which overlooked the camp was illuminated.

Residents turned off their lights at night because they preferred the dark to the possibility of a midnight raid by Israeli soldiers. Every so often, an army vehicle roared past to make the army's presence felt. Sometimes the drivers of these vehicles would operate the sirens or start honking in order to maintain the tension of psychological warfare. After assuring herself that it was safe, the woman closed the door and turned on the kerosene lamp to light the small cramped space of the room reserved for guests. Her young daughter, used to fearful sounds and disturbances of the night, approached her mother's side and in silence, observed the strange men who suddenly became a part of her life without her permission.

"How long will you be staying?" her mother asked one of the men who secured the wrapping of his beard. Before he had time to answer, she added: "Where are you coming from and is anyone hungry?"

"We'll only remain until dawn, and then we'll leave. We cannot tell you where we came from for your own safety, nor can we divulge information of the area we fled from, but, yes, we are very hungry. If you have some bread, we will be satisfied," replied the same man she had questioned.

"Lana, dear, go to the kitchen, make a pot of tea and bring what's left over from supper with that fresh bread that I made earlier today. Don't be long now, for our guests seem very hungry! Be sure to light the candle when you go."

The child made no reply but obediently left for the kitchen. Her mother, Amal, remained and ordered the men: "Sit down, all of you. You must be exhausted. I pray you'll be safe here for the night. Lana will bring the food in a few minutes."

The group sat as told and after a few moments, did not appear so tense. Soon the girl brought some hot tea, some bread and what was left of the supper. She set the tempting smelling tray which bore the nourishment in the middle of the circle of Palestinian warriors saying not a word. Some of the men granted a "thank you" and others simply grabbed loaves of bread and began stuffing large bites of food into their mouths. After the men filled themselves with the meager meal, a feeling of relief seemed to sweep over the room. While he sipped his final cup of tea the same unknown man asked his kind hostess: "Do you live alone, Mam?"

Where is your husband?"

"He died in a battle several years ago. My daughter and I live by ourselves."

"How do you support yourselves, then?"

"I learned to be a seamstress, I make enough to support us."

Later, Amal blew out the lamp after her group of refugees settled down for the night. She had only rearranged some foam mattresses and soon all were asleep and the only sound that emanated from the shelter was silence broken by an occasional cough.

Much later, one figure arose and crept away from his sleeping companions. He quietly opened the door and shut it quickly behind him.

A few moments later, Amal roughly shook the leader of group and whispered: "Wake up right away! One of your men just left. He must be an informer!"

The group seemed to rise as one and within no time, filtered out of Amal's home as suddenly as they had entered, minus one companion. Suddenly, army boots kicked the door and angry shouts ordered: "Open up or we'll blast away your house!" Immediately she opened and with a calm voice stated: "Yes, what is it? What do you want in the middle of the night?" The officer in charge of the raid shouted: "You know why we came! You're hiding fugitives. Those you shelter are wanted for crimes against the state of Israel!"

"Why officer, I live alone with my young daughter who is sleeping. But do come in and check for yourselves!"

There was no need to invite them, for even as she spoke, the soldiers had burst in and swarmed around her premises like bees to honey. The room which had occupied the warriors was now empty and there was no sign of those who had so recently been drinking tea and eating.

The Israeli officer's face turned purple with rage and when he opened his mouth, he seemed to roar like a lion: "Where did they go?"

"Who are you speaking of? I told you before, there's no one here but my young daughter who you so rudely awakened, and myself! Whatever gave you the idea that I harbour fugitives? A lone woman like me is certainly not in a position to undertake such a task. Never brave it may seem!"

It was then that she recognised the culprit who had sneaked out of her house to inform on the others. Her quick wits had saved his companions from his treachery. She pointed her finger at him and said accusingly: "So, it's you again! Why do you keep harassing me? I told you I would never marry you so you tell lies about me for sport! Shame on you! Look around officer, does this house look like it has harboured anyone?"

Not knowing what else to do, the policeman grabbed the collar of his shirt, gave him a hard kick and yelled: "You are going to have a lot of explaining to do! Get out, you lying dog! You get paid for misleading us? Next time be sure of those who shelter supporters of the Intifada or you will die!"

A few days later, Amal learned that those warriors she so bravely rescued successfully escaped from Israeli detection. For the treacherous Palestinian spy, he was found dead, alone face down in a ditch. No one knows for sure who killed him, but Amal has her suspicions that he got what he deserved for deceiving those whose lives depended on his loyalty.

Who knows what goes on in the dark of night? Stealthily figure come and disperse, witnessed only by the illumination of the hospital always filled to capacity with Intifada casualties, overlooking the desolate camp somewhere in the heart of Gaza where impending peace is purported to just around the corner.

JTV CHANNEL WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Oct. 28

8:30 Coach

Vegas Odds

The sixty-year-old Luther seeks a little excitement in Las Vegas! So he takes coach Hayden and Christine with him...along with his life-savings — \$10,000.

9:10 Reasonable Doubts

Moments Of Doubts

This is the first of two parts, in which a psychic murderer is set free after two murders because of "inconclusive evidence."

10:00 News In English

10:20 Movie Of The Week — Indecency

Starring: Jennifer Beals and Sammy Davis-Voss

Three women fall in love with the same man, and one by one they fall prey to his charms with deadly consequences.

Friday, Oct. 29

8:30 E.N.G.

9:30 Faces And Places

10:00 News In English

10:20 The House Of Cards

Francis will kill his main rival.

11:10 Mind Your Language

Saturday, Oct. 30

8:30 The Fannelli Boys

9:00 Da Beat's On

9:30 Perspective

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — The Keys

Starring: Ben Masters, Brian Bloom and Scot Bloom

Sunday, Oct. 31

8:30 You Bet Your Life

Bill Cosby presides over a weekly humour and quiz show where the grand prize is \$10,000.

9:10 Thirty something

10:00 News In English

10:20 Before Columbus

Rebellion

The Indians who live on the continent from Alaska to Cape Horn tell their stories. How their rights on their national soil and their identity have been denied following the Columbus conquest.

11:10 Golden Palace

Sophie has a great idea to promote the Golden Palace.

Monday, Nov. 1

8:30 Delta

Climb That Mountain

Delta finds herself compelled to finally "climb that mountain" and overcome the stumbling blocks laid down by her husband.

9:10 The House Of Eliott

With Christmas approaching, the sisters are suddenly showered with orders and have to work hard, while Evie is drawn even closer to her half-brother, Sebastian.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Chancer

Remembrance

Dex and Pierce steal the membership list of the casino chain run by Blake and Franklin. Anna falls in love with Dex, but he is still in grief over Jo.

Tuesday, Nov. 2

8:30 Night Court

Halloween II. Return Of Leon

Night Court celebrates

Halloween with a tender touch of charity work and love.

9:10 The Magical World Of Disney

Brand New Life

10:00 News In English

10:20 Feature Film — Keep Of The Flame

Starring: Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn

A public figure dies in a mysterious accident. To the police, he is an immortal hero. But in the course of writing his biography, a journalist stumbles across so many facts.

Wednesday, Nov. 3

8:30 End Of The Class

Video activity

The students at Philmont school are to prepare a video cassette, included in "Time capsule" that is intended to be opened in the 21st century.

9:10 Documentary — Horizon

10:00 News In English

10:20 The Women Of Windsor

This is the first episode of a bestseller of the lives of the women of Windsor.

Jurassic Park: How about an Oscar for special effects?

Sam Neill — Dr. Alan Grant
Laura Dern — Dr. Ellie Sattler
Richard Attenborough — John Hammond

Ariana Richards — Lex Murphy
Joseph Mazzello — Tim Murphy
Jeff Goldblum — Ian Malcolm
Director: Steven Spielberg
Screenplay by: Michael Crichton and David Koepp

Based on the book by Michael Crichton
Special effects: Phil Tippett

Billionaire John Hammond offers to pay the costs of two paleontologists' (Dr. Grant and Dr. Sattler) dinosaur excavation for the next five years if they agree to come to his island, Isla Nublar, somewhere in the Pacific.

Isla Nublar is Jurassic Park... where genetic engineering using the blood of ancient mosquitoes has recreated a dinosaur wonderland. Dr. Grant's and Dr. Sattler's job is to write a report to assure Hammond's board of directors of the island's scientific and commercial worth.

The over-confident park owner, Hammond, sends

his own grandchildren, 13-year old Lex and 9-year old Tim, on a tour of Jurassic Park facilities with Dr. Sattler, child-hater Dr. Grant, scientist Ian Malcolm and a lawyer.

Barely into the tour, a power failure brings the electrically charged landrovers to a halt, and the 10,000 watt security fences lose their charge. Soon enough the thunderous footsteps of the huge mammals are heard and felt.

The genetic engineering which re-created the 65 million-year-old animals, also created clever and vicious velociraptors and tyrannosaur rexes, who find themselves free to roam and hunt on their island paradise — with their main hunt being Lex and Tim.

FILM REVIEW

The concept is interesting, almost believable — finding a mosquito fossilised in amber for over 65 million years, discovering that this mosquito has bitten a dinosaur, extracting the blood from the mosquito and using the blood for chromosome recombination and then cloning an animal which has been extinct for centuries.

The special effects that "dinosaur supervisor," Phil Tippett uses to bring the dinosaurs to life are just amazing. Their presence on the screen is overwhelming.

However, bringing back to life what nature deemed should be extinct raises an ethical question on whether science should enter all realms.

As fascinating as Hammond's experiment may be, the scriptwriters answer is that not all realms should be disturbed. Since Hammond did not leave all that was well alone, the dinosaurs came back from their fossil graves to haunt the living, in particular those who loved and trusted them most — Hammond's grandchildren.

Steven Spielberg reinforces this conclusion by using the weakest characters in the movie's two most terrifying scenes... both which revolve around the near death of Lex and Tim under the claws and teeth of the dinosaurs.

The victimisation of vulnerable characters and their continuous terrorisation renders Jurassic Park into another thriller/slasher movie — the only difference here are the extravagant and imposing mammals. The dinosaurs have replaced other killer animals or humans, and their claws and teeth substitute for beaks, jaws, knives or saws. As common in other movies in this genre, the objects of terror do not simply threaten, attack and kill, they threaten to kill the victims least protected — again children.

Perhaps the only "positive" outcome of the violence is that Dr. Grant is forced into the role of a father figure



Special effects bring dinosaurs to life

and draws on his dinosaur knowledge (which is interesting) to protect and to reassure the children.

By Najwa Najjar-Kort

Shy sex symbol says limelight makes him nervous



Daniel Day-Lewis portrays writer Christy Brown in the film *My Left Foot*

By Paul Getner
 The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Who says all actors crave attention? Daniel Day-Lewis, one of the most talented and versatile leading men of his generation, says he'd be just as happy playing to an empty theatre.

"It is implicitly a public work," the reticent star says of his chosen profession. "And that makes me quite uneasy. ... If I could do the same work in a private way, I'd probably be happier."

"That's really why the preparation, whatever that entails, is very often the most pleasurable part because it's the most private part and the most intimate part ... of the work."

Also on the list of Day-Lewis' least favourite things about being an actor: Interviews. A reluctant sex symbol if there ever was one, he avoids talking about his personal life. "Don't ask, or he'll clam up," the Columbia publicists warn. No photographers allowed, either.

"I take my hat off to anybody that can live at ease ... with all that din around them," he explains. "I can't."

But he's willing to suffer through 20 minutes or so to talk about his role in Martin

Scorsese's poignant drama, *The Age of Innocence*, based on the Pulitzer Prize-winning Edith Wharton novel.

The movie, set in New York in the 1870s, deals with the tyranny of society and the difficulties of non-conformity. Day-Lewis plays a young lawyer who must choose between his simple, respectable fiancée (Winona Ryder) and his consuming passion for her cousin (Michelle Pfeiffer), whose freethinking ways and scandalous past make her a social outcast.

The lanky Brit sits somewhat nervously on the sofa in a chilly hotel room, his shoulder-length brown hair tucked behind his ears. As he speaks — slowly and carefully — his grayish-green eyes focus out the window or on the floor, rarely at the interviewer. But when something amuses him, they sparkle almost mischievously.

Day-Lewis says he was attracted initially to the project by his desire to work with Scorsese — "a chance that I hadn't really dared to hope for ... bearing in mind the work that he seemed to be doing."

He then was drawn into the complexities of a character torn between two worlds, yearning to break

free of convention yet trapped by his own sense of duty.

"He has enough of a yearning for that to feel he's, I suppose, always pushing the borders," Day-Lewis says. "But at the same time it is true that he is a product of the world into which he's born and he is most comfortable within that world."

It was a privileged world that Scorsese went to great lengths to re-create. The film reportedly cost at least \$30 million, much of it for sets, costumes and food. (Seven formal dinners are served in the film; 13 courses was the standard).

The director also hired an etiquette coach and a "visual research consultant," who spent 1½ years looking into such topics as China patterns of the era and what paintings graced the walls of high society homes.

"I never sort of stood back objectively and thought, 'this man is a perfectionist,' but sure to God he is one," Day-Lewis says of Scorsese.

Day-Lewis says he enjoyed delving into the 19th century milieu.

"The pleasure is in trying to understand a life that is foreign and strange and at

some distance to one's own," he says. "Some considerable work had to be done to try and understand those things ... so that people would see, set against the restrictions of that sort of society, how a tiny gesture, a tiny, almost imperceptible release of some emotion (becomes) a moment where something is revealed instead of hidden."

"I think it is quite tricky to understand that from a contemporary point of view, that degree of repression, you know, even though we are all still repressed in various ways."

Although times have changed, Day-Lewis says he believes today's audiences will still be drawn to the emotions in the story. "Human beings can sort of understand each other across vast expanses of time."

Since winning raves for his movie debut as a homosexual punk in *My Beautiful Laundrette*, Day-Lewis has followed with several historical or period films, including *A Room With A View*, *The Unbearable Lightness Of Being* and *The Last Of The Mohicans*.

He won an Academy Award in 1989 for his performance as writer Christy

Brown in *My Left Foot*, directed by Jim Sheridan.

Day-Lewis went to stay with Sheridan, a close friend, after escaping the strictures of *The Age of Innocence*, hoping to relax "or at the very least stare at the wall for a few weeks."

Sheridan, however, began telling the story of his next film, *In The Name Of The Father*, about a group of people wrongly convicted of an IRA bombing who spend years in prison before being proved innocent.

"So I felt myself irrevocably drawn to something that I really ... please no ... I don't want to do anything. But that's the way it happens," Day-Lewis says. The film is due in late fall.

Otherwise, he says, his career is relatively unplanned. He chooses projects based on what appeals to him at the time. He doesn't have anything lined up now, but the next project will probably be something again totally different.

Most people never have the opportunities actors do to experience other places, times and lives, he explains.

"By grace of this kind of work it means you don't have to give up all those other things," he says, laughing. "You can indulge your desires in that queer way."

Syrian Golan Heights film at New York Film Festival

By Assem Abdul Mohsen
 Reuter

DAMASCUS — Syrian Mohammad Malas showed his film *Al Leil* at the New York Film Festival this month and was surprised at the response audiences gave to his portrayal of an Arab town in the Golan Heights. "It (the Golan Heights) is a hot issue at the moment,"

he said, "the film was given an extremely good reception."

Malas, Syria's first director to exhibit his work at the festival, said in a radio interview his tale of Qunaytra was given a "warm welcome" by followers of different religions in New York.

The town caught the attention of the Arab World when Israel seized it during

the 1967 Middle East war. Qunaytra was razed in fierce fighting just 10 days before Israel was to return it to Syria under a 1974 disengagement treaty.

The Golan Heights is once again in the spotlight with whisperings of improved ties between Syria and Israel after the Jewish state and the PLO signed a peace accord last month.

Malas, haunted by the memory of his ancestral birthplace, declines to resurrect the political ghosts of the town, picking his way instead through the emotional rubble of its former inhabitants.

"Nobody has loved his city, cried over it and remained haunted by it for 13 years as I did. I want to get rid of its love... think of

other things," Malas said.

"I hope that by *Al Leil* I have repaid my debt to Qunaytra," he told Reuters.

Partly based on the life of his own father, a nationalist who fought for Palestine and is buried in Qunaytra, *Al Leil* (night) shows the effects Israel's creation had on the Arab population on the other side of its border.

"I am seeking to exercise the feelings of hatred and humiliation which had clung to the image of the father as well as to that of Qunaytra... with a wish to give the father an honourable death," Malas said.

The 48-year-old director, who studied film-making in the Soviet Union, has pointed his camera at reproductions of the once-

bustling community of 53,000 throughout his career.

He uses the rise and fall of the town as a vehicle to send his audiences through the ebb and flow of the Syrian dream for Arab nationalism and unity in the 1930s and 1940s.

Malas, who won first prize for the film at the Carthage Film Festival in

1992, wrote the screenplay and directed. Syria's state-run National Cinema Organisation also helped produce it.

He encourages his contemporaries to restore film as a visual art rather than one of oration.

"The eye says much more than what the tongue can say," he said.

The Joy Luck of Amy Tan

NEW YORK (AP) — She was 35 when she knew the game was over. It was the day Amy Tan looked in the mirror and discovered, yes, she had turned out a lot like her mother.

"I have a quality that can be described as either persistence or stubbornness," the 41-year-old author said with a shy, but firm smile. "I don't let go of it, and it drives me crazy that my mother can't let go of something. She can't let go of something that either bothers her or she wants very much."

"It's a reverence for something especially having to do with pain, a need to make somebody close to you understand. My husband points it out to me. He'll tell me, 'you sound just like your mother when you say that,' and I'll say, 'how can you say that to me?'"

If Tan was destined to lose this race against her-

self, the consolation prize couldn't have been more rewarding. Stubbornness, we'll call it persistence, has made her famous. Over the past four years, she has written two widely acclaimed, widely read novels that spare nothing in her examination of mother-daughter relationships, especially her own.

When she came out with her first novel, *The Joy Luck Club*, some wondered, who would read a book by a Chinese-American writer? The question now is: Who wouldn't? Her books appeal to mothers, daughters, immigrants, children of immigrants, married couples, survivors of war, or just about anyone who has endured some kind of heartbreak or disappointment.

The *Joy Luck Club*, now a feature film, tells of a tense, but close community of young, Americanised professionals and their

Chinese mothers. All know each other because of a weekly Mah-Jong game the mothers started in China and picked up again in California after the war.

Tan collaborated on the film's screenplay with Raio Man writer Ron Bass, co-produced the film and even makes a quick cameo in the first scene. Wayne Wang, whose other works include *Slamdance* and *Eat A Bowl Of Tea*, directed. The cast, mostly unknown to American audiences, includes France Nuyen, who starred in the 1958 film version of *South Pacific*, and Rosalind Zhao, who was featured in the final episode of *M-A-S-H*.

The *Joy Luck Club* contrasts women from an old world of too many rules with women from a new world of perhaps too few. For the mothers, there are memories of oppression, arranged marriages, family disgrace. The Americanised

daughters live with vaguer, but still persistent problems of uncertain identities and the burdens of achieving what their mothers couldn't.

Interviewed recently at a Manhattan hotel, Tan wears her divided souls, literally, on her sleeves of olive green. On one wrist is all-American costume jewellery, on the other a bracelet of Mah-Jong tiles, a gift from one of the cast members of *The Joy Luck Club*.

Tan was born in Oakland, Calif., in 1952, 20 years after her parents had emigrated from China. Her father, an electrical engineer and Baptist minister, moved his family from city to city. Amy, constantly forced to say goodbye to friends, learned instead to rely on her imagination. At age 8, she won a writing contest and had both her essay and her picture in the

newspaper.

Her teenage years were the hardest. She was 15 when both her father and her older brother died of brain cancer. Her mother, anxious to escape their "dis-eased house," took her remaining two children on a boat to the Netherlands and eventually settled in Switzerland.

In high school, Tao drifted with "the wrong crowd," dating the father of an out-of-wedlock child and fighting with her mother over everything from smoking to short skirts. For months, they stopped speaking to each other: Tan thought it might last forever.

"You go through adolescence years just wanting to be with friends," said the author, who graduated from high school in Switzerland and went on to receive a Master's Degree in linguistics at San Jose State University.

"In college, you know, 'in college, intelligent people don't reject their own culture. Intelligent people try to learn the language.' So I took courses in Mandarin and read Chinese history books."

Still, until a few years ago, Tan wasn't very different from a lot of ambitious, young professionals. She was a successful free-lance writer, her clients including IBM and AT & T. Her relationship with her mother was cordial, but distant — uncomfortable subjects were avoided.

By the mid-1980s, however, China was uniting her personal and professional lives. She took her first trip there, joining her mother and husband, and visited the two half-sisters her mother had abandoned during World War II. The trip would help inspire the stories in *The Joy Luck Club*.

"My mother told every-

body, 'It's all fiction; my daughter has a wild imagination,' but she knew emotionally it was true. For the second book, my mother said, 'next time, tell my true story,'" recalled Tan, whose second novel, *The Kitchen God's Wife*, was based on her mother's years in China.

"This was a fantastic thing she was saying to me, because her true story was a secret she had never told anyone, not even her closest friends. They never knew she was married before. They didn't know she had daughters before."

Daisy Tan continues to surprise — and even delight — her daughter. The author recently took her mother to a Los Angeles screening of *The Joy Luck Club*, she was nervous about it. Her mother, and grandmother had been estranged and one scene showed her mother's visit to her grandmother's death bed.

"Every time my mother

even mentions her mother, the word 'mother,' she breaks down into tears, and I thought, 'oh my God, how can she see this?' I kept looking at her to see when the tears were coming. Her eyes were moist, but she never really broke down," Tan said.

"I said, what did you think of the movie?" she said. "It was great," I said. "What did you think about what was in it?" she said, "so many bad things in China; it wasn't that bad," she would not watch this movie like other people. She watched this movie as my mother. She watched it the whole time, thinking, 'my daughter helped make this movie. Gosh, this is really great.'"

"She said to me also, it's so ironic, she said what did I do to deserve such a daughter. I remember a time in my life she said those exact words in a very different way."

Transplants — after human grafts, animal grafts?

By Dominique Viger

The technical performance in the area of organ transplants now leads to a paradox: The success of grafts does not prevent many patients from dying. Indeed, after conquering the obstacle of rejection, doctors are coming up against a banal problem: A lack of organs.

PARIS — At present, 4,800 people in France are waiting for a kidney transplant, 400 hope for a new liver and nearly 700 a strong, young heart. Since the discovery of cyclosporin, a drug which considerably reduces the aggression of the recipient's antibodies against the foreign graft, the chances of survival have increased considerably. There is now a 60 to 80 per cent chance, depending on the kind of organ, that the graft will "take."

Some of these people, however, will wait in vain for the saving organ. Doctors are unable to meet all the demands. Today, 50 per cent of families refuse to give organs. Three years ago, they only numbered 15 to 20 per cent.

Prompt to take up the challenge, eminent professors have found a solution. The first solution is, of course, to graft on artificial organs. The technique has been mastered in the case of kidneys. But now a new

possibility is opening up. The idea is to graft organs from animal species onto man. When we know the difficulties of limiting rejection in the case of human organs, it seems a crazy challenge and there is no lack of obstacles. A xenograft is rejected 100 times faster than a human organ.

Brain grafts?
The solution could consist in using organs from animals close to our stock such as chimpanzees or baboons. Professor Starzl, director of the Transplant Institute at Pittsburgh University, who carried out the first liver transplant in 1963, operated a xenograft for the first time.

In June 1992, he grafted a baboon liver onto a 35-year-old, HIV positive man, suffering from hepatitis B. Three months later, his patient died from a fulminant, misidentified infection, but, in the unanimous opinion of medical circles, the operation was a success.

In France, Professors Houssin at Cochin Hospital, Carpentier at Broussais Hospital and Soullillon from Nantes Regional Hospital also devote part of their budgets to this area.

However, the baboon risks being replaced by a pig, far from man in its stock, but close from a physiological point of view. Research is under way in two directions: To eliminate natural antibodies which are responsible for rejection and to integrate a human gene into the pig's DNA. It would result in a kind of "humanisation" of the species.

For this purpose, pigs could be bred, protected from viruses and germs. In spite of the similarity in the tissues of some of their organs, pigs have another advantage. They are easy and inexpensive to breed. Their size is adequate and their litters are numerous.

Moreover, protests from the public could be less vehement than with monkeys.

At the moment, these transplants are at an experimental stage. Researchers still have to find a means of avoiding the production of anti-pig antibodies by the recipient and of increasing the tolerance of the graft with the help of immuno-suppressants.

In order to achieve this, researchers, such as Professor H. Kreis at Necker Hospital, are considering grafting cells from the donor animal into the recipient's thymus (gland producing antibodies). Such a combination may make one shudder.

Xenografts could, first of all, enable patients to wait for a human graft. If there is no lack of physical barriers, others, ethical ones this time, will no doubt be posed. Will it be possible to find answers to this before



Organ transplants: Animals in the help of human beings

science, in fact, imposes it — Professor Starzl has, it seems, plans for brain grafting by the end of the century — L'Actualite En France.

World's eating habits ignore thousands of edible species

By David Briscoe
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The world's diet is getting increasingly dull, with thousands of tasty, useful plants and animals neglected and threatened with extinction, a U.N. study said.

Tomatoes cultivated with seawater, pigs ready to reproduce in 64 days, and fish with genes that might allow strawberries to grow under ice — the world is full of little-known species humans could use to increase and improve food supplies, said Jose Esquinas-Alcázar of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

"Any living plant, any living animal has potential for agriculture," said Mr. Esquinas-Alcázar in an interview. But he said hundreds of species used in ancient times are gone

while others are not being developed or protected.

With up to 50,000 edible species, humans eat only 250-300 kinds of plants, according to international agricultural studies.

"Today, most of the world's farmed terrestrial food comes from just 20 or so plant species, 8 animal species and 5 bird species," said a summary of the report.

So why isn't more of the world enjoying oca, arrachacha, marama beans, adzuki, oluca or carmbola?

Because they're too busy devouring rice, corn and wheat — which provide 60 per cent of the calories and protein humans get from plants.

"This is probably not a very wise utilisation of the available diversity," said Esquinas-Alcázar, who heads the FAO's commission on plant genetic resources.

In its report, Harvesting Nature's Diversity, the agency outlines its efforts to research, cultivate, and protect little-known plants, animals and fish around the world.

It says some 40,000 plant species could be lost by the middle of the next century. Europe already has lost half the domestic horses, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs and poultry breeds it had in 1900.

Over 85 per cent of the 7,000 apple varieties once grown in the United States are gone. Large-scale commercial breeding of domestic animals poses the worst threat to animal diversity, said the report, because they often are bred only for maximum production.

Mass-produced turkeys that Americans devour for Thanksgiving, for example, have such meaty breasts

that they cannot reproduce without artificial insemination. Left alone, they would become extinct in one generation, the report said.

In the last century, species such as the potato, soybean and kiwi have become major crops in parts of the world where they were not previously known. And other crops have been improved with genes from less-popular but more resilient varieties.

Mr. Esquinas-Alcázar said genes from an arctic fish have even been used in experiments with strawberry plants to develop a variety that can grow in icy conditions.

Wild tomato plants found on the Galapagos Islands have been used to propagate varieties irrigated with one-third sea water.

And rare but fast-breeding tahihi pigs, whose large litters are often eaten as

sucklings in China, have been used to improve meatier breeds in other countries.

Mr. Esquinas-Alcázar and other scientists see great potential for species such as the South American tarwi, a legume that repels insects and enriches the soil with nitrogen. It also contains as much protein and oil as soybean and could be

grown in Europe as animal feed.

Other neglected plants that might catch on around the world:

— Olluca is a tuber found in the Andes Mountains which can grow in freezing temperatures and comes in red, pink, yellow, orange and white with five times the protein of potatoes.

— Marama bean, from

southern Africa, has good-tasting seeds with more protein than peanuts and twice the oil of soybeans.

— Bambara groundnuts resist pests, grow in dry earth and provide a well-balanced food for thousands of Africans.

— Adzuki bean, which has been popular in Japan for 1,500 years, can be used in pastries and confections

and made into a soft drink.

Three plants used by Peruvian and Bolivians are: — Oca, a root crop which can be served boiled, baked or fried.

— Arrachacha, a cheaper potato substitute, tastes like a mixture of celery, cabbage and roasted chestnuts.

— Carmbola, a juicy fruit that may be tart or sweet, could rival the kiwi.

Drug-resistant bacteria becoming major health problem

By Daniel Q. Haney
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Bacteria commonly found in children and the elderly are becoming highly resistant to penicillin and other common antibiotics, and the search is on for the first vaccine to protect newborns from them.

The germ, pneumococcus, is the major cause of an ear infection, otitis media, that is the leading reason for doctor visits among the very young. U.S. physicians treat between 7 million and 10 million cases a year.

Babies have virtually no natural resistance to the microbe, and antibiotics are the only way to control the

infection.

But Dr. Robert Breiman of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said at a conference recently that physicians are rapidly losing their most powerful weapons against pneumococci bugs.

He said 7 per cent of the bacteria isolated from people are able to withstand penicillin, long the mainstay against the infection, while 10 per cent are resistant to erythromycin and 10 per cent to bacitracin.

"We need a vaccine now," said Breiman. "With drug resistance, we are approaching the post-antibiotic era. We don't have more antibiotics coming in. We may not have protec-

tion."

The germ also causes meningitis, blood poisoning and pneumonia. A pneumococcal vaccine has been on the market for 14 years, but it is intended only for people over age 65 and younger people with other underlying diseases.

"The biggest problem is the current vaccine. It does not offer protection in children less than 2 years of age," said Dr. David Klein of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease.

The goal of current research is to develop a vaccine that will work in the very young.

Dr. Klein said at least three new pneumococcal vac-

cines are being tested. They are manufactured by Lederly-Praxis Biological, Merck and Co. and Connaught Laboratories.

All three are undergoing studies to see if they are safe and will trigger the body to produce antibodies against the bacteria. No one knows yet if any of them will actually protect babies from the germ.

Dr. Klein said it will probably take six or seven years for any of the new vaccines to reach the market.

The researchers spoke at the interconference on antimicrobial agents and chemotherapy, sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

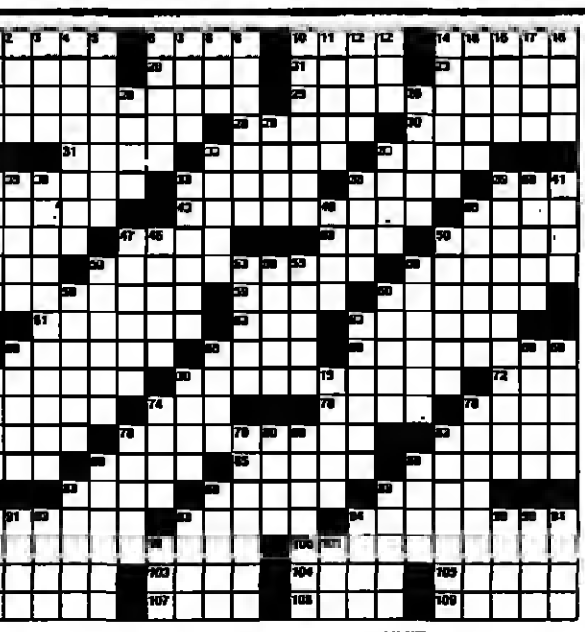
ELEMENTAL
By Joel Davajan

- ACROSS
1 Safety
8 Trudge
10 Humane go.
12 Member of the
18 — eel
20 Italian resort
21 Spruce
22 Multi pattern
23 Agitation
24 Territorial
25 Band member
26 Weaver's head
30 Bouncing
31 Artist's medium
32 Radio knots
33 Primrose
34 Steamboat
35 Wile a crawler
37 Then pancake

- DOWN
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2 Arab creation
3 Chop's key
4 Sea invertebrate
5 Special interest
6 Blueprint
7 Occurrence
8 Peacock
9 File
10 Personality
11 Beaches
12 Veranda
13 Pining
14 Trained
15 News item
16 Contaminant
17 Advantage
18 What's left
19 — pity
24 One
26 Has aspirations

- 38 Under the covers
39 Tacos eaters
40 Learning device
41 Plane piece
42 Restaurant order
43 Small bits
44 Reminders of a bird's beak
45 Locomotives
46 Censor of "Little
47 — alter
51 — alter
52 North
53 Progenitor
54 Assault violently
55 Circle of light
56 Chisel
57 Olympic discus
58 Champ. Al —

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63 Author Edna
64 Tacos eaters
65 Litterature
66 Alternative
67 Baiter's aid
68 Wily city
69 Coward's go.
70 Colonial hunter
71 The sun
72 Spanish rivers
73 Young herring
74 German address
75 Liquor
76 Palmer or Ross
77 Pander product
78 US president
79 Certain golf
80 tournaments



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. Faithful Boy Scout does his good deed for the day as he escorts onto reloaded girl across a busy street.
2. Cautely square adjusted her jade-colored shawl, and waited quietly until rainy came.
3. Any army crypto writer can surely get rich writing these puzzles. Not!
4. Artist was award for sketch of beach under full moon.

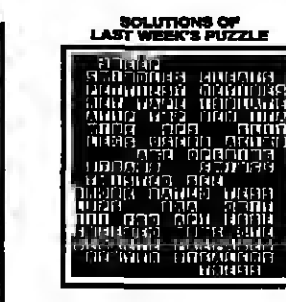
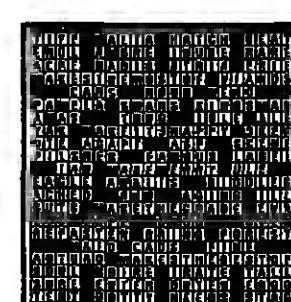
CRYPTOGRAMS

1. CRUX MPPL, WPIRWAVCR EXEMBRZEE
WYBL IYVE S FNNX RYA HETIEL
IBREAYPEZEVN.

2. COYSE WANTS, XOEUGW MUSE
COVERINGS POICTROIN LG BUT ENOX.
MOT GIB LGPE O HLLV HAS O HLYN.

3. FOMIPUG FLYINGFRYL BNPG IALLPFG
UNLONGFRYL PG HNPY LBFUM YIPS.

4. IL ANWILDITYM IQYH UQMX VIXT XTIV
QXXZWHX DTH QWNLHLEH IS Q SZYIM
YIQUH XETIY AZX.



By Paul Raeburn
The Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Developers of a cream that appeared to shrink women's thighs say they have been besieged by callers wanting to know where they can buy it.

"It's been horrible," Dr. Frank Greenway, a clinical professor at Harbor-UCLA Medical Centre in Torrance, Calif. said Thursday. "I figured I was presenting to a bunch of scientists. I can't deal with this. I'm back here trying to sort out patients."

Dr. Greenway presented the research on the cream recently in Milwaukee at the annual meeting of the North American Association for the Study of Obesity. He reported that a teaspoon of the cream a day for five weeks reduced women's thighs by one-half inch to 1 1/2 inches (1.25 cm. to 3.75 cm.).

Dr. Bruce Frome of the International Pain Research Institute in Santa Monica, whom Dr. Greenway has licensed to produce the cream, was also flooded with calls, which he was not able to return, his office said.

The cream is not yet available, Dr. Greenway

said.

Obesity researchers continued to express doubts about whether the cream was truly effective and whether its effects would persist, but many agreed that further testing was in order.

"One of the worst things we can do in science is to stone things like this, say it's no good," said Dr. Ahmad Kishore of the Medical College of Wisconsin, who organized the meeting where the research was presented. "I think we should give it a chance."

The cream's active ingredient is a drug called Aminophylline, a chemically modified form of Theophylline. Both have been used as asthma remedies.

But anyone trying to make an ersatz cream from ground-up asthma pills will discover what Dr. Greenway and his colleagues discovered: That ordinary creams inactivate the drug.

"The Aminophylline reacted with the cream base, which caused a chemical reaction that caused a skin irritation. And it didn't work," Dr. Greenway said.

"We had to be sure we got a cream base that would deliver this thing properly and wouldn't react with the Aminophylline."

Dr. Greenway said he hopes the cream can be marketed as a cosmetic soon.

That would avoid the years of testing required for drug approval. But it would also mean that the marketers of the cream could not make medical claims about its ability to reduce fat.

Researchers have not yet confirmed that the drug actually reduces fat in the thighs. They know only that it reduces thigh size. But they believe that the drug can potentially alter fat cells in the thighs by increasing the number of so-called

beta receptors on the cells.

Women, who are far more likely than men to gain weight on their thighs, have a tough time losing that weight. That is because fat cells in the thighs have fewer beta receptors than fat cells in the abdomen, Dr. Greenway said.

Cynthia Graff, director of the Lindora Medical Clinics in Los Angeles, said there would be great demand for anything that could help women lose weight on their thighs.

"I can tell you that my patients would be very interested in this," she said.

SOLUTIONS

PUZZLES

(A) Jumbled words

- JEOPARDY.
- ANACONDA.
- ANGOSTURA.
- SLEEPLESSNESS.

★ ★ ★ ★

(B) Painting ladder

The words are:
MONA, MONK, MINK,
LINK, LINT, LIST,
LISA.

Jordanians will be pragmatic — King

(Continued from page 1)
as a Muslim, a Hashemite, an Arab, and as a person who seeks to satisfy my conscience, have called for talks to achieve an accord on the Holy Places in Jerusalem which removes all sovereign claims except for those of Almighty God.

All followers of the three great monotheistic religions — Muslims, Jews and Christians — should enjoy worshipping side by side, as God meant it to be. If that happens, then the ripples will go not only to our immediate region, but affect the world as well.

GV: What specifically do you have in mind?

King: The Holy Places of Jerusalem should be moved out of the orbit of the attempts of any to impose sovereignty over them. That alone belongs to Almighty God.

The rights of all should be equally recognised. A dialogue should produce the kind of meeting of the followers of the three monotheistic religions aimed at forging a peace, which has not been our fortune for far too long.

The Holy City should be separated from any temporal sovereignty, which I hope will also represent the coming together of the Palestinians and Israelis on this question.

GV: The Christian, theologian, Hans Kung, has written that, "The three Abrahamic religions need a religious symbol, a common holy place as a great sign that they all three worship the one God of Abraham and therefore have something in common that overcomes all divisions and enmity."

"The fact is that there already is a sanctuary of the God of Abraham, the Dome of the Rock. It is a unique holy place on the old temple site in Jerusalem. According to the Jewish and Muslim tradition, the Dome of the Rock commemorates not only the binding of Abraham's son, Isaac, but also the creation of Adam, and will be the scene of world judgement."

"Is it so utterly absurd to believe that Jews, Muslims and Christians could pray to the one God of Abraham at this holy place? In this way, the Dome of the Rock would be a Dome of Reconciliation?"

Is Kung's proposal in the realm of what you have in mind?

King: Jerusalem can be this site of reconciliation. The details will have to be worked out, and I cannot embrace any specific proposal. But the overall spirit expressed here is what I have in mind.

GV: Presumably, the parliament that gets elected in Jordan on November 8 will have to approve any peace treaty between Jordan and Israel.

Yet, the Leader of the Islamic Action Front, Dr. Ishaq Al Farhan, has called the PLO-Israeli accord the first step toward a "Middle East region" dominated by Israel, a "Trojan horse" for Jordan and the "Arab World."

If the Islamic Action Front wins the 25-30 seats they expect, will that enable them to block a peace treaty?

King: I think that, regardless of any other factor, Jordanians, when they assume their responsibilities, are very pragmatic. I hope they will act more responsibly in the times ahead. As far as this leader is concerned, I am utterly committed to the cause of lasting peace that will change the situation in the region entirely. I do not know what will happen in the coming period. It is up to the electorate to decide.

This country is comprised of Muslims as well as many Christians, and they will all be represented in the coming parliament. I don't think they will

let themselves down, let the Palestinians down, or let me down.

GV: You are in the odd situation of being a monarch who is the leading proponent of democracy in the Arab world. What is behind this new democratic model you are promoting in Jordan?

King: My belief in my people is firm. My duty to them is to enable them to partake in shaping their future. Our democratisation is not new. We have been trying to do it but have not been able to continue in a normal way for many years.

In 1956 we held free elections. But then people in Jordan, including myself, believed in Arab unity. Many did not believe that this country had anything distinct to offer. So, political pluralism did not really exist except insofar as parties were extensions of those elsewhere in the Arab World. The nation-building began after that and went through very difficult times — the 1967 war and beyond.

The resumption of elections were only possible after we disengaged with the West Bank in 1988, which enabled the PLO to accept (United Nations Resolutions) 242 and 338, and for all the developments now resulting in self-rule to occur. We couldn't have elections before that, with half of what was legally Jordanian jurisdiction under occupation.

So, at the first opportunity, in 1989, we took the first step of holding general elections and developed a National Charter through a Royal Commission, with representatives of all schools of political thought in this country. A new constitution was formulated and our path towards genuine pluralism was charted. Now, there is no turning back.

The charter defines our system of government as a parliamentary, hereditary monarchy where government decisions are subject to the approval of a freely elected Parliament. While affirming that Islam is the religion of the state and Islamic law is the principal source of legislation, the charter guarantees tolerance, and the right of citizens to hold varying opinions. It guarantees the right of political participation of all citizens and upholds the supremacy of the rule of law by rejecting violence as a means of affecting change. Jordanian men and women are equal under the law, and discrimination is forbidden on the basis of differences in race, language or religion.

GV: What is most interesting about Jordan's emergent political opening over the past few years is your experience with Islamic militants. At one point a couple of years back, 40 per cent of the Parliament and five ministers were from the Muslim Brotherhood. Once seen as a threat, in this election they seem to be seen as just another alternative among many.

King: When popular movements are put to the test of government, people become aware of their limitations. And free people always tend toward pragmatism.

GV: So the Islamic Action Front of Jordan today is competing for election against scores of other groups and individuals with the slogan "Islam is the Solution." Meanwhile, Islamists are being executed weekly in Algeria and Egypt. Isn't democratic inclusion a better way to cope with the threat of militant Islam than repression?

King: Let me say this without reference to any other Arab state in particular: We are determined to make an example of something that can work, of something that the

world can look at which reveals the true possibilities of Islamic society and deflects from the image presented by intolerant extremists, or perceived in ignorance by those who know little of Islamic faith and tradition.

In the short and long term, stability has to be augmented by people sharing and shaping their future through democratic institutions; by people exercising their rights and seeking their hopes through direct involvement in political life. I hope that Jordan will be an example of something that works, including for those who have given themselves the name of the Islamic Front because, after all, the country is Muslim as well as Christian. We are all one family equal under the law.

GV: So bringing people into the process breeds moderation; keeping them out through repression breeds extremism?

King: That ought to be obvious. There was a time when we were almost alone in this entire region, misunderstood and under tremendous pressure following the disaster of the Gulf War and the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. I think, without our journey toward democracy and without the people forging the policies of this country, we wouldn't have survived. This is the kind of strength that is inherent in democratisation. There is no substitute for it.

Individual rulers come and go. Only institutions founded in the will of the people live on. That is what I hope will be my legacy to the future generations of this troubled region.

GV: Of course, there is no guarantee that more democracy in the Arab World, as demonstrated by Jordanian public attitudes about the United States and the coalition states during the Gulf War, will mean a more pro-Western attitude. Wouldn't it be a mistake for the West to assume so?

King: What democracy means is that people are free to determine their own sovereign decisions. Now let me be very clear about Jordan's position during the Gulf War. We were never in favour of Saddam Hussein and did not support Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Jordan was worried, like every single Arab state, about fragmentation. We were worried about the human and material losses.

Jordan was not against the United States, but we were against the destruction of the Iraqi people made to suffer dearly for the policies of its leaders. We tried to resolve the problem in an Arab context, and failed. I was pained during that war when we were told by Americans that "You are either with us or against us," because our friendship with the Americans is built on the principles and ideals on which that nation was founded and which we, in our own way in this moment, are embracing.

During the Cold War, Jordan was the only voice in this region standing up against the tide of communism that otherwise might have reached all the way to Africa.

GV: You have stood with the West, but will a democratic public?

King: I am sure.

Snippets and tidbits from

'Altruism' and generosity used on candidates' softer chords

The 1993 elections campaign, serious as it appears, is not devoid of a light — sometimes funny — side. There are tidbits about news, views and comments about the campaign that will appear (hopefully) every day in this corner until it is all over on Nov. 8. Humour is intended in the column, in no way libel.

THE SITUATION in the Third District receives special attention because of its representative value in tapping public opinion in the country. It is probably the one district where tribal alliances and money are not supposed to overshadow ideals and political affiliations, many elections observers believe. Yet, it seems that this analysis may not be particularly accurate during this round of elections. A woman candidate in the Third District met with a group of women this week and felt that she was able to convince them to consider her candidacy seriously. After returning home she received a phone call from one of the women she had met who had one more question to ask: "Another candidate is paying us JD 50 for each vote. How much are you prepared to pay?" The candidate has placed a phone call to the Interior Ministry with this information and is awaiting measures that would ensure that these women and other voters cannot pretend they are illiterate on Nov. 8, which is the requirement that candidates who pay out as a condition to ensure that these voters scream the name they want to vote for in front of the representatives of the



It is easy but not too handy to find one's name on the election lists. Especially if you are shorter or short-sighted (photo by Aynsley Floyd).

candidate before they get paid. Not only is the method depriving us of the chance to get an accurate sense of the political trends in the country, it is also defying the literacy rate the Kingdom's officialdom keeps announcing with pride.

ALSO IN the Third District, a candidate has placed an advertisement in local papers in which he claims to be trying to decipher his strength among voters to aid him in deciding whether to run or withdraw. A look at the questions tells us that the candidate has already made up his mind. "How can a common citizen and a struggler like me get to the Lower House of Parliament and represent all your hopes and aims?"

was the candidate's first question. A second question goes like this: "How can I reach you individually and explain all my hopes and aspirations when I also live day by day, like you, without huge amounts of money at my disposal which others are spending on their campaigns with all the extravagance that you all see?" And finally: "Do I really have no hope of reaching Parliament since I do not have money and cannot host banquets or publish manifestos full of loud and impossible promises?" What can one say?

NADIA BUSHNAQ one of the three women candidates vying for a seat in Zarqa, received a beaming message of support from female voters in her

district. "Her deeds have brought good will and were characterised by righteousness, bringing daily light and glamour to those around her." They urged her to "put your faith in God and be the first female soldier in Zarqa's history and our foremost representative always." The ad was signed by three men and five women. The men signed in their clear names, the women, however, used what appears to be pen-names like Umm Faisal and Umm Abed Al Labadi. Could it be that they are afraid to show allegiance to a woman?

THE GOOD news is that the leftist parties may have started to think pragmatically, after all. In an ad published on Wednesday,

day, candidate representing Jordan's People's Democratic Party withdrew his candidacy from the Second District in Amman in favour of lawyer Rateb Al Jneidi, who is closely associated with the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party. It is all part of a deal that is supposed to unite leftist votes in the different districts and has been apparently successful in several districts, party sources claim. They add that barring one case, that of Zarqa, swapping between the two parties has been accepted and announced in a press conference. The Zarqa case, they mention, is that of two candidates, Bassam Haddadin who was officially named by the Jordan People's Democratic Party, and Adib Hawatme, the brother of Nayef Hawatme, vying for the same Christian seat. Tareq Hijawi, who is representing the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, is also running, but for the Muslim seat. But when the issue is investigated, we find out that "the excitement over the publicised accord between the two parties, should be weighed within its right context: personal interests," as one informed source said. Especially that Ahmad Yousef Alia, who was named as the one withdrawing in favour of Rateb Al Jneidi, never registered for elections in the first place. So much for pragmatism and the benefit of the party.

Nermeen Murad

Sharaa warns against separate peace

(Continued from page 1)

the foreign ministry, denied that it was Israel who was deferring the negotiations with Syria.

"The word is out that we are delaying the Syrian process. This is wrong. If there is a delay in the Syrian process it is really the choice of the Syrians," he told foreign journalists.

Mr. Savir said serious negotiations could begin the moment Syria agreed to a full-fledged peace including open borders and diplomatic relations.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Oded Ben-Ami, would not directly comment on the report but confirmed that Mr. Rabin was giving priority to implementing the Sept. 13 agreement with the PLO.

"Right now we are focusing on the Palestinian accord," Mr. Ben-Ami said, which will grant Palestinians limited self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho in a matter of months.

On Tuesday, Mr. Rabin told Jewish fundraisers that Israel would continue to maintain the Jordan River as its "defence border."

"Israel will, by no means, even in a context of peace, return to the pre-six-day war lines," he said, referring to the 1967 war.

Palestinians see the river as the eastern border of an eventual Palestinian state.

Addressing the same group, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said talks with Jordan would probably resume in late November.

'Israel to free more detainees'

(Continued from page 1)

Hamas threatened to carry out attacks against Israel if it did not release its founder spiritual leader, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin.

A Hamas statement circulated in the occupied territories said the Israeli government must "free Sheikh Ahmad

Yassin immediately and unconditionally."

"If the government does not free him, it knows we can do so by force," the group warned.

Hamas said it would "carry out all the necessary operations to secure the release of the Palestinian detainees"

opposed to the PLO and its autonomy deal with Israel.

The government has already rejected a PLO demand for the Sheikh's release.

In another development, Israeli troops captured a wanted Palestinian, took his pistol and in what is certainly a first with the peace process, let him go Wednesday after he pledged to refrain from violence.

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With

BCCI compensation plan derailed by court decision

LUXEMBOURG (R) — A Luxembourg court Wednesday upheld an appeal against a \$1.7 billion compensation plan for creditors of the collapsed BCCI bank group, setting the stage for a costly legal battle lasting into the next century.

"The appeal is justified and the liquidators have no right to sign an agreement (for the compensation plan)," Judge Raul Gretsich told the appeals court.

BCCI, once one of the world's largest private banking groups, was shut down worldwide in July 1991 amid allegations of extensive fraud. Before it was closed it had more than \$20 billion in assets and

branches in the countries. Lawyer Maria Dennewald had filed against the settlement offered to depositors in Britain, Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands by the main shareholder of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI), the authorities of Abu Dhabi.

Her clients had claimed that the compensation offer was unfair and insufficient.

Judge Gretsich said the plan contravened Luxembourg law as the shareholders were not treated equally. Under the deal, Abu Dhabi, which is also a creditor, would receive a large section of the \$1.7 billion it puts into the fund.

The judge also criticised a

stipulation by Abu Dhabi that creditors would not be able to launch any further legal action if they accepted the deal.

Rushing off to report the news to her clients, depositors Hal Skolnick, Adil Elias and Assilao Artiki, Ms. Dennewald said: "I have won the case and I am very happy about it."

Georges Baden, a court-appointed Luxembourg liquidator, predicted that creditors would not receive any payment now for at least 10 years.

"This ruling is very important. Eighteen months of full work has been rendered useless by this decision today," he said.

Under the Abu Dhabi plan,

creditors would have recouped about 30 per cent of sums deposited in BCCI before it was shut.

Mr. Baden predicted that creditors would now only get up to 10 per cent of the money they had lost.

A lawyer representing Abu Dhabi was equally pessimistic. "About 90 per cent of the creditors were in favour but now they will get nothing. They have no prospects," said Jean-Louis Schiltz.

In a ballot of creditors last year, 93 per cent agreed with the plan. But Ms. Dennewald had disputed the accuracy of the ballot.

Courts in Britain and the Cayman Islands had already

given their approval. The Luxembourg appeal was the last obstacle as Abu Dhabi had stipulated that the settlement offer could be activated only if all three countries agreed to it.

Liquidators Touche Ross did not send key personnel to attend the ruling but had indicated that they might appeal if they lost. They had said a failure to accept the plan could lead to further costly litigation, longer delays and smaller payments.

By January 1993 the liquidators had already gobbled up at least \$133 million because of the heavy cost of legal action.

The liquidators could now sue Abu Dhabi or seek a better

deal. They are already suing the Bank of England, claiming that it did not play a tough enough supervisory role to prevent the alleged fraud.

BCCI's former auditors, Price Waterhouse, and auditors Ernst and Young are also being sued, along with Sheikh Mahfouz of Saudi Arabia.

Since the Luxembourg appeal was launched last May, Syed Ali Akbar, the former head of BCCI's treasury department, has been convicted in London of false accounting practices and sentenced to six years in jail. He was the first BCCI official to be found guilty of any crime.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 28, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Your intuitive faculties may be working very well today but you won't receive any assistance from the planets which are mostly squares and oppositions. Check over any issue with a fine tooth comb.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find out what you can do to bring more operative skill where material problems are concerned, then you can get out and solve public perplexities.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Consider what you need to do to enhance the wellbeing of your physical vitality before you get into the specific chores that await your undivided attention.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well the specific items that can improve the quality of your life at your residence before you later make arrangements for outside good time.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have some points of tension to work out with a usual ally so get this behind you and then take up matters affecting your own family.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have some practical material matters that require close attention so get into material issues, then you can be off to attend to outside obligations.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You need to handle some personal situation that is not to

your liking before you get into the practical aspects of how to increase your assets.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) An intimate concern can cause you lack of productivity early but after noon conditions pick up and you can see ways to bring your own unto you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about your social pleasures and how you can improve them and later you will see how you can quietly arrange to have them in your life.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Be more than ever scrupulous in whatever you have to do of a public or worldly nature in the morning then you can get into your more subjective goals.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a new idea you want to put into motion but there is no assurance you have sufficient knowledge of it yet but tonight go after worldly needs.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get at obligations you have assumed as matter how fine some and get them behind you while later you can get a fresh new start towards success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Now you have all kinds of benefits flowing to you in the evening from some business matter after a morning when an outside matter brings you confusion.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 29, 1993
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Friendliness at work and social gatherings produce excellent results with influential persons you encounter as long as you are certain to state your aims and ambitions of a constructive, ethical nature.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) All sorts of interesting conditions come into the open showing you how you can best so arrange relations with others that you both are satisfied.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) You find ways now to so please those with whom you work side by-side that immediately putting them in motion increase your daily accord.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You now have a day that your attachment and congenial companions are receptive to whatever plan you have for entertainment and other amusements.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Now you need to take a good look at your home for you will instantly see the ways and means to make it more attractive and operative.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make a special point today to know those with whom you have contact in the outside world that you enjoy knowing and having pleasure of seeing them.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) A spot of paint here, some repair there and generally

doing what will enhance the value of your property and assets can considerably add to their value now.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Your charm is high, your ideas are good and you can utilize them now to go after and get the personal longings that mean the most to you.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You like to know the answers to all questions and whatever is difficult to penetrate or mysterious can now be found out by your own delvings.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Now you have a day when being very gregarious in seeing as many friends and acquaintances as possible can reap you some distinctive rewards.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You are naturally a worldly minded person, even though you usually want to do things yourself but today you wish out by cooperation with bigwigs.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You now can use your Aquarian aliveness to get out of any rut in to which you have sunk and make real headway towards some new enterprises that are good for you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Whatever points of differences may have existed with attachment or whatever accord now exists can be added until by amicable discussion today or tonight.

India remains top cut diamond exporter

BOMBAY (AFP) — India has retained its position as the world's top exporter of processed diamonds despite a global recession by offering cheaper prices and focusing on relatively untapped markets in Asia.

The export target of \$3.02 billion set for the fiscal year which began in April would be easily attained through the new strategy, said K.Y. Padmanabhan, an official of the Indian Diamond Exporters Association.

Sales during the first half of the current 1993-94 financial year have already reached \$1.63 billion, he said, with Asian diamond merchants increasingly looking to India for cut and polished gems.

Hong Kong nearly doubled its diamond imports from India, buying processed stones worth \$405.9 million between April and September against purchases totalling \$207.9 million a year earlier.

Mr. Padmanabhan said Japanese buyers had bought diamonds worth \$259.7 million

in the first half of the current financial year against purchases of \$202.5 million a year ago.

The United States continues to be the largest buyer with diamond exports from India totalling \$569.1 million between April and September — a steep rise from the \$461.1 million recorded in the first half of fiscal 1992-93.

The United States accounts for 35 per cent of India's diamond exports.

"But other markets like Japan, Hong Kong and Belgium are showing an increasing interest in Indian processed diamonds," Mr. Padmanabhan said.

He said a worldwide recession had brought down prices with rates falling from an average of \$287 per carat in 1991-92 to \$260 the next year, affecting profits in spite of rising business volumes.

The slide in profits has prompted traders to cut costs but there have been no layoffs in the sector.

Saudi crude oil reserves put at 258.8 b barrels

MANAMA (R) — Saudi Arabia's recoverable crude oil reserves stood at 258.8 billion barrels at the end of 1992, the state-owned Saudi Aramco Company said.

"At the end of 1992, recoverable crude oil reserves in the company's fields were 258.8 billion barrels," said a report in Aramco World magazine, received by Reuters Wednesday.

It said the quantity, about a quarter of the world's known total, was 6.4 billion barrels above the total in 1988.

In 1988 Saudi Aramco, originally set up by U.S. oil companies, became fully owned by the Saudi government.

The report said gas reserves totalled 181.5 trillion cubic feet in 1992, up from 177.29 trillion cubic feet five years earlier.

Yeltsin lifts land deal curbs

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday signed a historic decree allowing the free purchase and sale of land, removing one of the last legacies of communist rule.

Presidential spokesman Anatoly Krasikov told the Associated Press the decree removed the "last obstacles on the way to forming a real free market in Russia."

Russia's hardline parliament had resisted removing more than seven decades of state control over the use of land and had imposed limits on earlier efforts to privatise it.

"The state guarantees the inalienability and protection of private property on land as well as protection of property rights in all business transactions concerning land," the decree said.

The presidential order also guarantees citizens that the government could not confiscate their land without "compensation of its value to the owner on its market price."

The removal of most restrictions on the sale and purchase

of land would be a major boost for Mr. Yeltsin's plans for a free market economy and would accelerate the breakup of the country's vast network of collective farms.

The confiscation of land was one of the Bolsheviks first acts when they took power in 1917. Dictator Josef Stalin then forced the Soviet Union's peasants on to collective farms in the 1930s, resulting in famine and the deaths of millions.

Returning land to private hands is likely to have a major psychological impact on Russians, who until now have only been able to own small plots of land they used primarily for country homes and vegetable gardens.

It was not immediately clear what restrictions might remain on the ownership of land.

Rouble zone

A rouble zone of countries sharing common monetary and economic policies must not be rushed and needs clear ideas

on what sort of economic system the member states want to see, a top Russian official said.

Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin, responsible for Russia's relations with international organisations, said it would take time for countries to adopt the single legal system which was one of the preconditions for a new-look rouble zone.

"We need these states to have a clear picture of the type of economic relations in store for them after the creation of a single monetary system," he told a news conference.

"States wanting to become members of a rouble zone must fulfil all obligations. If they are ready to do this, we are ready to discuss all the mechanisms for them to introduce a unified system."

Shokhin's comments are the latest in a series of words of Russian caution over the new rouble zone, set up by Russia and five other former Soviet republics last month.

Volatile prices alarm the world of industry

LONDON (R) — OPEC Minister Aliro Parra of producing nation Venezuela was not the only speaker at this week's oil and money conference in London to lament weak petroleum prices.

The annual get-together of industry leaders was held against a backdrop of a surprise new drop in oil prices, down 20 per cent this year.

"Ask the market," said Mr. Parra. "I do not understand it."

Prices are weak even though output now by OPEC (Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) is lower than a year ago.

Analysts blame recession, prospects that the U.N. Gulf war embargo on Iraqi oil may be lifted or just "market psychology."

Another keynote speech at the oil and money session was from U.S. Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who said

prices in 1993 had been too low for the good of the U.S. industry.

And one of America's leading oilmen, Coastal Corp Chairman Oscar Wyatt, voiced the industry's own rage and angst.

Mr. Wyatt had both OPEC and the futures markets in his sights.

He contended that OPEC's weakness since it first failed to honour agreed quotas a decade ago had allowed spot and futures markets to dictate prices.

These had then "done more to destabilise the price of oil than anything else... the only thing that can hold the Wall Street boys in check — is a revival of OPEC."

Mr. Wyatt said Saudi Arabia and other big OPEC sellers must sink differences over quotas and act collectively.

The price of benchmark Brent blend of crude oil, now

just above \$16 per barrel, is scarcely better, allowing for inflation, than the price 20 years ago before the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

Mr. O'Leary said cheap oil might immediately help the U.S. economy but she doubted if it conferred longer-term benefit.

Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Parra both argued that unstable prices made it impossible for the industry to undertake the orderly planning needed to keep the world well-supplied with oil.

Venezuela alone was having to look at investments in the current 10 years close to \$50 billion, Mr. Parra said, to raise its capacity and upgrade refineries to meet new environmental rules.

Mr. Parra also contended that weak prices encouraged the West to levy new taxes on oil. Taxes meant that a barrel worth \$15 to the producer —

"if we are lucky" — cost the consumer \$100.

Later in the two-day conference, participants argued that price volatility was not going to go away — so it was imperative for the industry to use hedging instruments on futures and other financial markets.

"I do not think we will ever return to perfect oil price stability any more than we will to fixed exchange rates," said Peter Gignoux, head of the London energy desk for Smith Barney Shearson.

Among traders, however, some appeared to share Mr. Parra's puzzlement at the latest sell-off.

"From time to time so-called fundamentals just disappear," said Mark Adams of AIG Trading in London.

He said prices had just lost some 80 cents "when everybody says the market is balanced or even tight."

GoldStar - JORDAN



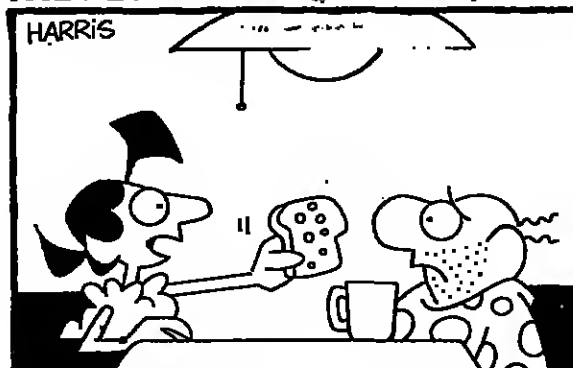
Gold Star Company holds press conference

AMMAN — On the occasion of the Gold Star Company's regional conference in Amman, a press gathering was held at the Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday evening.

Addressing the press was K.S. Shin, vice-chairman of the Korean Gold Star Company, Mustafa Darwish Al Khalili, chairman of the board of directors of the Middle East Company for Engineering and Electronic Industries and Mohammad

Details of this conference will be published later.

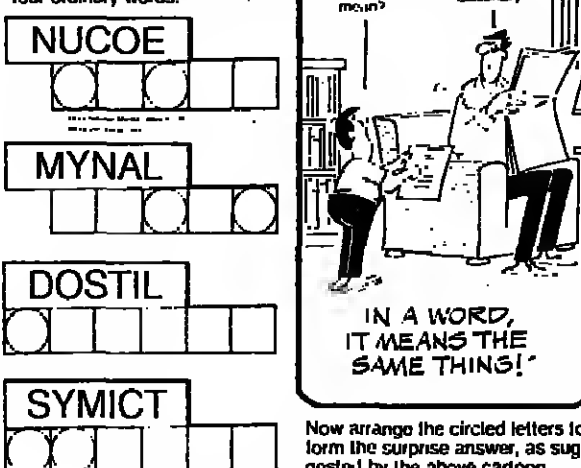
THE BETTER HALF By Harris



"It's raisin toast for dieters. I poked out all the raisins and replaced them with peas."

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Amold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Print answer here:

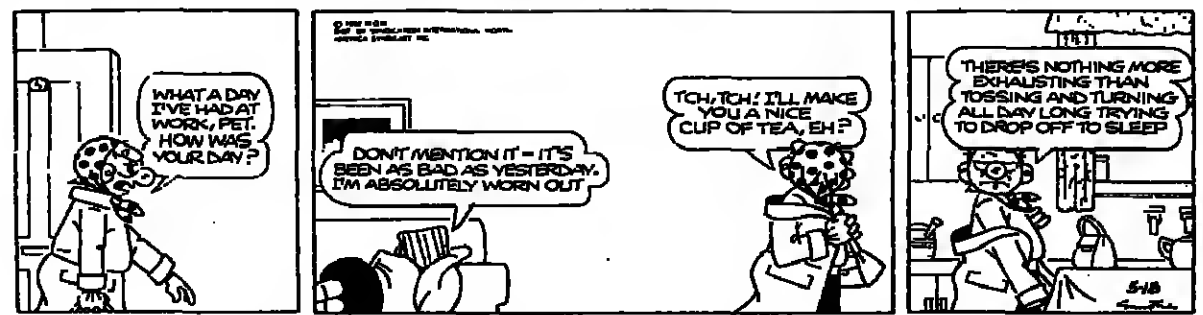
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: MINGE, HEDGE, DEVOUR, NEGATE
Answers: A kind of carpenter's bill; playing "UNDERHAND"

Peanuts



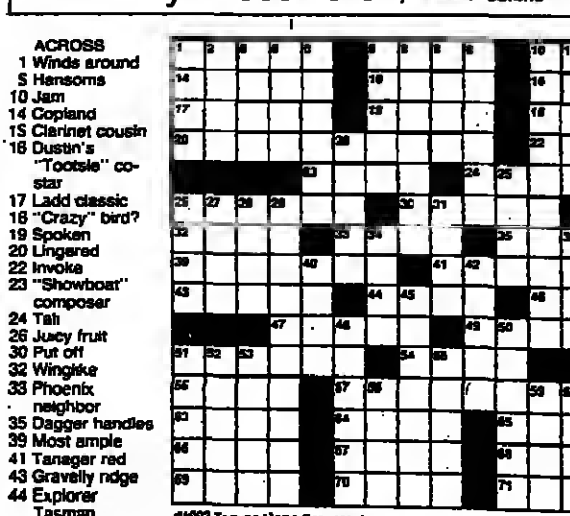
Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff

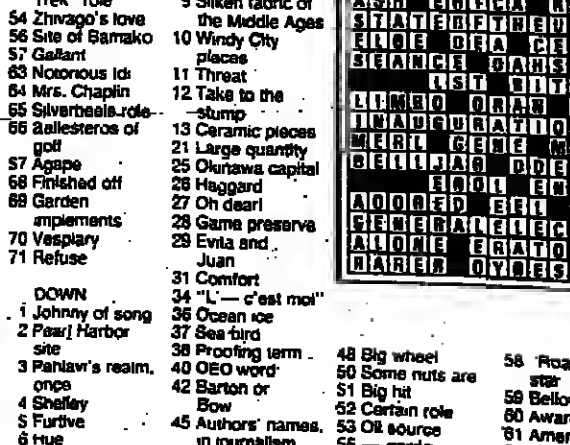


THE Daily Crossword by William Carline



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:



N. Ireland massacre thwarted by jammed gun; victims buried

BELFAST (Agencies) — A sectarian massacre was narrowly averted in Northern Ireland overnight when Protestant extremists bent on revenge for an IRA bombing tried to attack Roman Catholics in a bar but their weapons jammed.

With tension high after 14 killings in four days, a masked gunman burst into a bar frequented by Catholics in the town of Lisburn south-west of Belfast late Tuesday and tried to spray the clientele with sub-machinegun fire.

Customers dived for cover but the gun jammed and he fled.

The outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters, a hardline Protestant organisation opposed to the IRA's drive to end British rule in Northern Ireland, admitted responsibility for the attack and said their aim was "to assassinate a number of nationalists."

Britain's Northern Ireland Minister Sir Patrick Mayhew, faced with a succession of "tit-for-tat" killings, said Wednesday: "These are extremely evil and dispassionate men. I am horrified at their intention and relieved the gun jammed."

Catholics and Protestants continued to mourn and bury their dead in working-class Belfast Wednesday amid palpable tension in the run-up to high-level British-Irish talks on how to end the carnage.

Downtown, business was continuing as usual, with the exception of a few extra armed patrols and the thump of helicopters.

But police presence was conspicuously boosted up in the neighbourhoods of north and east Belfast where six funerals were taking place.

Major roads linking Catho-

lic and Protestant sections were closed to traffic, accessible only on foot as five more Protestant victims of Saturday's bombing, including a 13-year-old girl, were buried.

Prime Minister John Major of Britain and Albert Reynolds of Ireland meanwhile planned to discuss the new wave of violence Friday on the sidelines of the European Community summit in Brussels.

Police attention here was concentrated on the crowd of Catholics at Holy Cross Church in the Ardoyne section gathered for the funeral of Thomas Begley, the 23-year-old Irish Republican Army (IRA) man killed Saturday by the bomb he was planting that killed 10 and injured 56.

A spokesman for Begley's family said they were "sorry for what happened."

"He would not have gone out to murder innocent people," he said. "He was not against ordinary Protestants. We are suffering too."

"We have to get through what Thomas did," said the spokesman, who insisted Begley was a "quiet and devoted boy" and that the family was not aware of his IRA activities.

Along Shankill Road, thousands of Protestants lined for the funeral procession of victims of the Saturday bombing.

Rumours of shots fired, and of a suspect vehicle, sparked a brief panic in which two elderly persons were injured.

"These areas are not the whole of Belfast, and Belfast is not the whole of the province," said a shopkeeper, referring to the north and east Belfast neighbourhoods that have seen the worst of the bloodshed. There was an uncharacteristic



The triple funeral of victims of Belfast's Shankill Road explosion goes past the emplacement where the IRA bombing left 10 people killed (AFP photo)

hush on the streets of Belfast's Catholic working class neighbourhoods Tuesday night and early Wednesday as residents appeared to be taking the advice of police and staying indoors lest Protestant gunmen strike again.

Tension was palpable in both ethnic communities after a British soldier apparently panicked and fired several shots in front of the Begley home Tuesday, wounding a Catholic and provoking bitter exchanges between residents

and soldiers.

The soldier was being questioned by police.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said the Major-Reynolds talks Friday could include as yet undisclosed peace proposals by nationalist politician John Hume and Gerry Adams, leader of the Sinn Féin political wing of the IRA.

He said he expected the two premiers to give the proposal "very serious attention Friday to see where the process can go from here."

Bosnian forces kill renegade officer

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian government forces killed a renegade army commander and captured another after a crack-down on army gangs linked to a wave of robbery and assaults in Sarajevo, state radio said Wednesday.

Muslim-on-Muslim violence subsided in the Bosnian capital Wednesday after a day of battles between government forces and soldiers loyal to two commanders who were accused of running a crime ring.

Musan Topalovic, commander of the army's 10th Mountain Brigade and better known as "caco", was shot dead while trying to escape from government troops, Sarajevo Radio said.

The commander had given himself up earlier to troops ringing his compound at the foot of a mountain where his units had helped defend the city against besieging Serbs.

"Following his arrest in the night of Oct. 26-27, Musan Topalovic tried to escape from the vehicle taking him away," said an army communique broadcast on the radio.

"At that moment, the military police escort opened fire and shot him to death."

A second officer, Ramiz Delalic, commander of the army's Ninth Brigade and better known as "celo", surrendered Tuesday to government troops surrounding his headquarters in the city centre.

Twenty-five civilian hostages held inside were freed at the same time, Bosnian state radio said.

Bosnian Radio said 278 soldiers suspected of links to

armed gangs had been arrested since Monday. Eighty-four were freed after questioning.

In central Bosnia, U.N. peacekeepers found evidence of a massacre in the Muslim village of Stupni Do committed by Bosnian Croat forces in an attack Saturday.

U.N. officials Wednesday accused Croat forces of threatening U.N. peacekeepers investigating what happened in the village.

Swedish peacekeepers had identified the bodies of 15 people who had been burned or shot to death, and found all 52 houses in the village razed to the ground, according to a statement released Wednesday by the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR).

General Jean Cot, commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in former Yugoslavia, accused Bosnian Croat Defence Council (HVO) troops of systematically preventing peacekeepers from entering Stupni Do for three days.

"It is unacceptable that we were forced to delay our entry into the village for such a period. It is clear that the HVO troops were attempting to hide from us the atrocities they had committed," Gen. Cot said, quoted in the statement.

Swedes, who secured the village overnight, were due to be relieved by British peacekeepers Wednesday.

The British soldiers were entering a tense situation in the face of threats from a local Croat commander, according to U.N. officials.

The official said UNPROFOR soldiers had been repeatedly

threatened and a local Croat commander said that if the Nordic battalion did not withdraw he would ask his superiors to order military action.

Serb forces heavily shelled the Bihac pocket in northwest Bosnia Tuesday. Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio reported Wednesday morning.

Bosnian Serbs had also attempted two infantry assaults on Muslim positions in the Bihac area, Bosnian government radio said.

The Serb bombardment, which could not be independently confirmed, marked a rise in fighting after a long lull on front lines dividing Serb and Muslim-led Bosnian army troops in the Bihac enclave.

The Bosnian army faced a rebellion among its own forces in the Bihac enclave after the region declared itself independent last month. The leader of Muslim separatists in the Bihac enclave signed a cooperation pact with Bosnian Serbs last week.

The radio said Serbs had shelled defence lines around Sarajevo, mostly in western high-rise districts.

In the southwest city of Mostar, Bosnian Croat units blasted the besieged Muslim quarter, killing two people and wounding five, according to the radio.

Meanwhile, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday it would take years of work to solve the Yugoslav conflict and many international conferences like the one he is proposing to hold in the next few months.

Aircraft flies partly on solar power in test

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — An aircraft being developed for the Pentagon has been successfully flown in a test flight powered partly by solar power, researchers said Tuesday. The Pathfinder — an unmanned aerial vehicle that looks like a flying wing — completed a flawless first test flight on solar power last Wednesday at Edwards Air Force Base in California, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory said. The Pathfinder project grew out of President Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative. That plan, aimed at creating an anti-missile defensive shield around the United States, has now been drastically scaled back. The idea is that the Pathfinder would fly high over a battlefield for weeks or months powered by solar energy. It would be equipped with sensors to detect short range ballistic missiles fired by an enemy and would fire small interceptor missiles to destroy them.

Welcome back, Leona — uh, sort of

NEW YORK (AP) — Hotel Queen Leona Helmsley was halfway home Tuesday, settling into a hotel just off Fifth Avenue. But the only exotic aspect of her new digs is the name: Le Marquis Hotel. It's a federal halfway house, where as many as six people sleep in one room. The pillows are without mints and the bathroom is with bugs. The 73-year-old hotel queen was sentenced to four years in prison for tax evasion and began serving her term on April 15, 1992 — the annual deadline for filing federal income tax returns. A federal judge, citing her age and husband Harry's failing health, reduced her term to 30 months. With time off for good behaviour, she will be free in January. Until then, it's Le Marquis for La Reine. Just two blocks south of the Helmsley-managed Empire State Building, the halfway house will be her home through Jan. 26, when the multimillionaire's debt to society will be paid in full.

200,000 child runaways roam China's streets

BEIJING (R) — About 200,000 runaway children are roaming the streets of China, a Ministry of Civil Affairs official says. But the problem was not serious compared with other developing countries, considering China has 300 million people below the age of 18, Xinhua News Agency Wednesday quoted the official, Wang Jin-An, as saying. Mr. Wang said the runaways were collected by special centres nationwide and returned to their parents or legal guardians as soon as possible. He said the worst affected city was Shanghai.

Twins use shock tactics with their parents

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Twin brothers Mohammad Shahrul Wahab and Sharil Wahab regularly shock their parents and friends — and it hurts every time. "It was as if I had touched a live wire," their distraught mother, Zaleha Abu Bakar, told the New Straits Times of one contact. "I was terrified." Electricity apparently flows from the boys' bodies every time they sweat, the newspaper said. "There were times when I could hear some kind of crackling sound, like broken wires, coming from inside their bodies," their mother said. A paediatrician who examined the 3-1/2-year-olds, from the eastern state of Terengganu, said they probably became charged with static electricity when out cycling or during prolonged contacts with steel or iron objects.

Flea market find pays for overseas vacation

LONDON (AP) — A couple plan to visit relatives in Australia with the £8,510 (\$12,765) they got for two watercolours which cost them £1 (\$1.50) in a British flea market, auctioneers Sotheby's said. The pictures of wildflowers growing in sandy dunes were by recognised Belfast artist Andrew Nicholl, who died in 1886. The anonymous couple saw the pictures in tatty frames for £2 (\$3), when they said they didn't want the frames the staff holder kept the frames and halved the price.

Christopher advises Aristide against working with military

RIGA (Agencies) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Wednesday the government of exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide would probably be able to work with opposition forces, but he advised it not to let Haiti's military into the new administration.

"We think the present organisation can bring into the picture the opposition forces," Mr. Christopher told reporters in Latvia on his last day of a tour of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

"But I would not contemplate and do not recommend that military forces be part of the new government," Mr. Christopher said. "That is not likely to be acceptable to (Haitian Prime Minister Robert) Malval or Aristide."

An agreement between Mr. Aristide and the Haitian military provides for Mr. Aristide's return to the troubled Caribbean nation by Saturday.

But Mr. Aristide's return by that date seemed unlikely given the recent unrest in Haiti, and Mr. Christopher said it was more important to achieve a harmonious result than to be driven by the deadline.

"It's much more important to focus on the results of demo-

cracy rather than to be fixated on a particular date," he said. "The important thing is to ensure that the return of Aristide will achieve harmony and tranquility."

The U.S. administration has concluded that Mr. Aristide would risk his life if he were to return to Haiti by Saturday, the New York Times said Wednesday.

Unnamed senior White House officials told the daily that no early agreement between Mr. Aristide and the Haitian military appeared likely and that tightening U.N. sanctions against Haiti seemed the only way to produce a breakthrough.

"It's his call, and there's a slim possibility he might try to head back anyway," an official said referring to Mr. Aristide's eagerness to return.

"Sometimes he sounds as if he's got one foot on the plane already. But we don't think he should go and I wouldn't bet on resolving this week," the official added.

A fragile U.N. peace plan was in danger of unravelling Wednesday as diplomats expressed doubts that Haiti's parliament, pro-democracy government and military could work together to resolve the political crisis.

If Haiti is unable to reach a settlement to return Mr. Aristide to power, the nation may soon face a complete cut-off of its commercial ties to the rest of the world.

The U.N. Security Council, impatient with the army's refusal to give up power, has threatened to expel an embargo on gasoline and military equipment to include virtually all imports.

"We are very disappointed," said one Western diplomat. "Everything is a ploy."

On Tuesday, Haiti's parliament was unable to muster a quorum to debate two crucial laws necessary for Mr. Aristide's return under the U.N.-brokered plan.

Some pro-Aristide lawmakers said they were afraid to emerge from hiding and take their seats in parliament. Others said they didn't have enough gasoline to drive to the capital and vote because of the U.N. embargo.

The fuel shortage threatens to impair much of the Caribbean nation's basic services. Most buses have stopped running, and the state-owned water, electricity and telephone companies have warned customers that service may be disrupted because of lack of gasoline.

Rebel Georgian leader 'preparing to flee'

TBILISI (AFP) — Former Georgian President Zviad Gamsakhurdia was preparing to flee his home region in western Georgia Wednesday as government troops closed in to crush a rebellion by his followers, a Georgian minister said.

But in an incident complicating efforts to end the chaos in western Georgia, Georgian paratroopers backed by warplanes reportedly attacked a Russian garrison in the region, despite a two-sided alliance between the two sides against the Gamsakhurdia rebels.

News agency reports, quoting Russian military officials, said helicopter-borne Georgian troops backed by two Sukhoi-25 fighter-bombers attacked a Russian border post in the Black Sea port city of Anaklia Tuesday evening. Anaklia is located along the border between Georgia and its breakaway Abkhazia region, about 30 kilometres south of Zugdidi, Gamsakhurdia's home town and the base from which he launched his offensive to topple Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze last month.

The commander of the unit was seriously wounded and two other Russian soldiers were less seriously hurt in the attack, which was repelled, Interfax News Agency said.

Georgian Security Minister Yegor Georgadze meanwhile told AFP he had received confirmed reports that Mr. Gamsakhurdia would soon leave western Georgia for Russia via the breakaway Abkhazia region.

U.S. officials have insisted that it is not negotiable and Mr. Chretien was deliberately vague during the election campaign on what specifics he wanted changed in the free trade pact.

President Carlos Salinas De Gortari and Mr. Chretien had a brief but cordial telephone conversation Tuesday during which they discussed the proposed NAFTA pact, the Mexican president's office said in a statement.

The statement also said Mr. Salinas congratulated Mr. Chretien on his victory in Monday's national election in Canada and wished him well in his new post.

"During the conversation that was characterised by its cordial tone, different topics that make up the Canada-Mexico bilateral agenda were taken up, including the NAFTA," the release said.

Associate Professor Geoff McCaughan of Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital told Reuters that his team had just completed what he believes is the first complete mapping of the genetic structure of the co-receptor molecule, known as CD26.

The Australian researchers

said they would be providing the genetic map of CD26 to AIDS scientists.

Scientists at France's Pasteur Institute announced Monday they had identified the molecule CD26 which works along with the known receptor CD4 to allow the AIDS-causing human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) to infect cells.

The Australian scientists had known of the existence of CD26 for five years but were not aware of its importance to AIDS research until Monday's announcement.

"We've just completed a sequencing to find out the exact genetic structure of the molecule," said Prof. McCaughan, whose team has been studying the molecule's relationship with liver disease.

Following the French discovery, the Australians are now

trying to match differences they had found in the molecule's genetic structure with how the virus affects those infected with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Prof. McCaughan said the variations might account for why some people develop the disease shortly after infection, some take years, and others appear to remain immune.

If CD26 is the key to how HIV infects human cells, as the French researchers suggest, the genetic map may allow scientists "to target these as a way of reducing the number of CD26 molecules expressed, thereby reducing the risk of HIV infection," Prof. McCaughan said.

While CD4 allows HIV to hook on the cells, CD26, also

known as Dipeptidyl Peptidase IV, serves as a door allowing the virus to penetrate the cell.

French scientists said if the discovery holds true, experts could use genetic manipulation to place the CD4 and CD26 receptors in laboratory mice, thus creating the long-awaited animal model AIDS researchers so urgently need.

The director of the virology department at Sydney's Westmead Hospital, Associate Professor Tony Cunningham, said scientists had been "chasing the 'holy grail' of the second receptor on cell surfaces."

"The more you find about how those keys fit into the lock, the more you can find out how to produce antiviral agents that may interfere with entry and how to boost the immune response against both those keys," he told reporters.

He added: "At the moment, there is no plan to link it (the nuclear issue) with any other issues."

Mr. Han spoke to reporters before leaving for Beijing where, he said, he would be discussing with Chinese officials issues as diverse as fisheries, aviation, trade and investment.

Both sides will also review their positions ahead of next month's meeting in Seattle, Washington, of leaders of the 15-member Asia-Pacific Economic Forum (APEC), he said.

In a speech to Asia society in Hong Kong, Mr. Han proposed a "multilateral security forum" in North East Asia that

would include "a non-intervening China, a non-threatening United States and a non-nuclear Japan."

A Chinese diplomat said Wednesday China will stand firm against possible sanctions by the United Nations against North Korea over its suspected nuclear weapons programme.

"We can't agree to sanctions," Chinese Ambassador to Japan Xu Dunxin told a Tokyo news conference.

He said the nuclear issue involving North Korea should be resolved through dialogue.

"We hope the issue will be resolved through talks between North Korea, and the United States, South Korea and the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)," he said.

Mr. Xu said U.N. sanctions could only increase the confrontation between the two Koreas.

"If the contradiction on the Korean peninsula was escalated, the countries which could be put in the most disadvantageous position would be China, South Korea and Japan," the ambassador said.

Quebec problem threatens to block bid to solve Canada's economic woes

OTTAWA (AFP) — Rising demands for Quebec separatism threaten to get in the way of Prime Minister-Designate Jean Chretien's promise to tackle Canada's economic woes.

Mr. Chretien had vowed that job creation and cutting the federal budget will be his first priorities.

But the new prime minister will be confronted every day by a fellow Quebecer who is equally dedicated to breaking up the confederation as it now exists.

Lucien Bouchard, a former cabinet colleague of outgoing Prime Minister Kim Campbell, scored the second biggest upset in Monday's election by leading his Bloc Quebecois to such a strong showing that it is now the official opposition party in Canada.

It was Mr. Chretien's pledge to jump start the economy which helped him and his Liberal Party sweep to victory in Monday's general election.

During the campaign Mr. Chretien promised a federal government sponsored jobs creation system — with massive investments in the nation's highway system.

He also promised to abolish the much-hated goods and services tax (GST), Canada's

value added tax on both goods and services, but was vague about how he would replace the revenue from that tax.

Mr. Chretien was expected to outline at a press conference Wednesday his overall plans to boost the economy, to cut the nation's persistently high unemployment rate of more than 11 per cent and to encourage private sector investment.

But he is also under pressure from international bankers to avoid fuelling the already high federal budget deficit of more than 35 billion dollars (\$26.25 billion).

With 178 of the 295 seats in the House of Commons, and a fractured opposition which will have difficulty in putting any united front against him, Mr. Chretien is set to govern probably for at least four years before calling the next election.

The deputy leader of the Liberal Party, Sheila Copps said Tuesday that the new government would waste no time in starting its promised — and much criticised — six billion-dollar (\$4.5 billion) jobs creation scheme.

There will be a short transition period while Mr. Chretien puts together his cabinet, probably about two weeks or less.

One of his first foreign tasks is likely to be next month when

he is to go to Seattle for a summit of Asian and Pacific leaders hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Before that he is likely at least to have a telephone conversation with Mr. Clinton about one Liberal election promise — to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between Canada, the United States and Mexico.

U.S. officials have insisted that it is not negotiable and Mr. Chretien was deliberately vague during the election campaign on what specifics he wanted changed in the free trade pact.

President Carlos Salinas De Gortari and Mr. Chretien had a brief but cordial telephone conversation Tuesday during which they discussed the proposed NAFTA pact, the Mexican president's office said in a statement.

The statement also said Mr. Salinas congratulated Mr. Chretien on his victory in Monday's national election in Canada and wished him well in his new post.

"During the conversation that was characterised by its cordial tone, different topics that make up the Canada-Mexico bilateral agenda were taken up, including the NAFTA," the release said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

U.N. wants Olympic truce

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United Nations General Assembly passed a resolution urging member nations to observe an "Olympic truce" during the winter games next February in Lillehammer, Norway, and again for the 1996 summer games in Atlanta. The resolution, passed Monday, said the ancient Greek tradition of halting battles during the Olympics matches the U.N. goals of promoting friendship and understanding between nations and the peaceful settlement of international conflicts. U.N. officials will meet Friday with International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch regarding the truce. A General Assembly resolution also proclaimed 1994 the International Year of Sport and the Olympic Ideal.

Seles gets Australian wild card

SYDNEY (AFP) — Organisers of the New South Wales Open are holding on to a wild card as efforts continue to entice former world number one Monica Seles to choose the competition for her tennis comeback. Seles has not played since she was stabbed in the back by a spectator during a tournament in Hamburg on April 30. NSW Open organisers said here Wednesday they were in almost daily contact with Seles' management in a bid to get her to play in the Sydney event from Jan. 10-16. "We last spoke to her management 24 hours ago," said tournament director Rod Read. "We've been told there hasn't been any decision yet, but we are prepared to hold a wild card for her up until the draw of the event on the weekend before the tournament starts. "If Monica is to make her comeback in time for the Australian Open then this is the tournament for her," said Read. "I understand that she is very concerned about losing her points for winning the last Australian Open."

Former Olympian fired as coach

GAINESVILLE, Florida (AFP) — Mitch Ivey, a U.S. Olympic swimmer in 1968 and 1972, was fired as women's swim coach at the University of Florida after a university probe of relationships with team members. Ivey denied misconduct charges after his firing here Monday, saying the college wants to avoid bad publicity instead of support him. "It leaves me feeling pretty nauseous," Ivey said. "It's real unfortunate. I was told putting my arm around a girl and using foul language was deemed reason enough." The investigation began when television reporters arrived at the school three weeks ago asking questions. A report is scheduled to air Friday with allegations of sexual misconduct of a coach that fits Ivey's description, though it was not identified. Ivey has married three times, once to a swimmer while she was in college.

Talks resume on U.S. vacancy in IOC

NEW YORK (AFP) — Deciding who should fill the vacant U.S. seat on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will be on the agenda of the U.S. Olympic Congress that opens here Friday. The meeting includes a U.S. Olympic Committee board of directors session that should address the IOC opening made in 1991 when Robert Helmick resigned following conflict of interest revelations. U.S. Olympic leaders have not been able to agree on even a small list of candidates acceptable to Juan Antonio Samaranch, the IOC President expected to attend the weekend gathering here. Failures at IOC meetings in Barcelona last year and Monaco this year came because the USOC could not narrow its choices. Names mentioned include NBA Commissioner David Stern, 1984 Olympic Chairman Peter Ueberroth and former United Nations Ambassador Andrew Young. Anita DeFranz remains the lone U.S. member on the 92-person IOC panel.

Briton takes a game from Kasparov

LONDON (R) — A 21-year-old British player took a game from chess master Gary Kasparov. After a game of speed chess with Briton Nigel Short, whom he beat Thursday to win the Professional Chess Association championship, Kasparov played five members of the audience simultaneously, including Micky Adams. Adams, rated one of the top 20 players in the world by the International Chess Federation (FIDE), won the first game. Kasparov took the next two games to win the match. Adams has secured a place in the quarterfinals of the next FIDE World Championship, the final of which will be played in 1995. Earlier, Kasparov beat Short in their speed game, going 2-0 ahead. The pair will play four speed games.

Newcastle star says sorry

NEWCASTLE, England (AFP) — England under-21 international Lee Clark apologised to Newcastle Tuesday for his Sunday show of petulance and immediately received a double reward from the English Premiership side. The 20-year-old midfielder, who had to be dragged back into the dug-out by manager Kevin Keegan after being substituted at Southampton, will not be fined or transfer-listed, as Keegan had promised. Clark, already dropped for Wednesday's League Cup tie against Wimbledon, said: "I would like to apologise to the chairman and the club for my behaviour at Southampton Sunday. I regret my actions and it was all done in the heat of the moment. I will ensure that it never happens again and I am looking forward to the future and a long and exciting career with Newcastle United."

Batty move causes Leeds split

LEEDS, England (AFP) — Howard Wilkinson's position as Leeds manager looked in jeopardy as England midfielder David Batty joined Premiership rivals Blackburn Rovers for £2.75 million. Wilkinson did not want to lose the 24-year-old, who joined his hometown club as an apprentice eight years ago, but he was overruled by the board. They said in a statement: "Blackburn have made persistent inquiries since the summer, which have all been firmly rejected by Howard Wilkinson. "On this occasion the directors decided the offer should be accepted and the player expressed a willingness to meet Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish." Wilkinson has been under pressure to sell, with Leeds anxious for cash to meet huge ground improvement bills. He was prepared to part with former England midfielders David Rocastle and Steve Hodge, but received no suitable offers.

Bosnich out to prove he is the best

BIRMINGHAM, England (AFP) — Australian Mark Bosnich, often labelled the best goalkeeper in the world by his Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson, is looking forward to having the chance to prove it. He flies home for Sunday's World Cup play-off with Argentina and another great chance to improve the growing reputation he has established with the English Premiership side. "To play in the World Cup finals for your country must be absolutely fantastic and that's what's at stake for us," said Bosnich. The Villa star believes he still has much to do to live up to Atkinson's description of him. "I'm not the best in the world and it embarrasses me when he says that," said the Australian. "I wish he would say potentially because I've still got so much to learn. "I admire goalkeepers like Peter Schmeichel and Neville Southall and I've got to keep by feet on the ground, keep concentrating and just try to be more and more consistent."

Mansell in Senna warning to Hill

LONDON (AFP) — IndyCar champion Nigel Mansell has urged Damon Hill to take some boxing lessons before teaming up with Ayrton Senna in the Williams Renault Formula 1 line-up next year. Mansell, back in England to collect a gold medal from the Royal Automobile Club for successive Formula 1 and IndyCar triumphs, was speaking from his experiences with the Brazilian before quitting the Grand Prix scene. "I had my share of bust-ups with Senna," recalled the 40-year-old Briton, who was replaced by Hill in the Williams Renault team after the 1992 season. "I could teach Damon a few moves. He should take a few boxing tips over the winter and if he's not had lessons in self defence, he should take some. Damon is a nice fellow and what Senna will do on the track he can compete with, but it is off the track he needs to worry about. He will not do the sort of manoeuvring Senna will do. Senna will not have to go out of his way to try to intimidate Damon. His reputation precedes him. Senna is no mag. He's a good driver, but he'll be there for himself."

Man. United face UEFA inquiry

MANCHESTER, England (AFP) — Runaway English Premiership leaders Manchester United are likely to be fined by UEFA after two crowd incidents during their European Champions' Cup tie with Galatasaray last week. Wednesday's Today newspaper reported that Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen had informed European Football's governing body of a pitch invasion by two Kurdish demonstrators and a car through from the Old Trafford stands during the 3-3 draw. UEFA spokesman Rene Eberle told the English tabloid: "I fear that United will be punished for both incidents. "The match was watched live in Turkey and because of the political situation there the appearance of Kurdish demonstrators would have caused a lot of anger. We have to look at these matters seriously and whether the home clubs have been negligent in allowing these people to get on to the pitch." UEFA's disciplinary committee are expected to discuss the incidents at a meeting on Nov. 11 after next week's second leg in Turkey.

Panel recommends new doping test

TOKYO (R) — The International Swimming Federation's (FINA) Medical Committee has recommended blood tests to detect doping, a Japanese official said Wednesday. The official, from the Japan Swimming Federation, said the 12-member medical committee agreed on the recommendation at the end of a meeting in Kyoto, western Japan, at the weekend. It must now be put to a FINA directors' meeting scheduled for next February in Istanbul.

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Cream of Asian soccer face all-or-nothing encounters today

DOHA, Qatar (Agencies) — The cream of Asian football face all-or-nothing encounters Thursday as the World Cup qualifying matches here reach a dramatic finale that could not have been scripted better.

Two teams qualify for next year's finals in the United States and, with just one point separating five countries, there are several possible outcomes. The only clear-cut scenario is that victories for Japan and Saudi Arabia would automatically send them to the U.S. if either side draw or lose, the door would be open for South Korea, Iran, or Iraq to claim a spot, probably on goal difference.

Group leaders Japan, on five points, take on fourth-placed Iraq, who are a point adrift, while Saudi Arabia, second on goal difference, meet Iran, fifth with four points.

The other match pits third-placed South Korea, also on four points, with cold war rivals North Korea, the only team out of the running.

All three matches will be played simultaneously to avoid any team receiving an unfair advantage.

Japan, aiming for their first World Cup finals, look ready to take over the mantle of Asia's top side from South Korea.

The biggy-successful J-League has given the players a competitive edge and striker Kazuyoshi Miura was at his opportunist best against North Korea and South Korea, with three vital goals.

Iraq have played with the passion demanded by their country's leader Saddam Hussein and the people, who have implored the team to return with a passport for the United States.

"I want the team to play relaxed football," said Japanese coach Marius Oco. "They should feel the tension but not too much, just like the game against North Korea which they had to win."

"A win takes us to the United States—we have to go for it not the draw."

Iraq coach Ahmad Baba, who guided the side to the 1986 World Cup finals, has worked his magic on the team since taking over from Adnan Dirjal after the first game loss to North Korea.

"The people expect us to qualify and we have the chance to do so if we win," said Baba, who has three players available again for selection after one-match suspensions.

Baba will have more say in the composition of his team than new Saudi Arabia coach Mohammad Kharrash, who replaces sacked Brazilian Jose

Candido for the game against Iran.

"I will not change the team. I have not been brought in to do that," said Kharrash.

If Saudi Arabia are to play in the finals for the first time they will have to cope with the aerial threat of Ali Daei, the tournament's top scorer with four goals and a target for German club Bayern Munich. Although they have no chance of qualification, North Korea will not be doing their southern neighbours any favours.

"We are not going to abandon the tournament just because we cannot qualify," said North Korea's assistant coach Yun Myung-Chang. "We are going to play hard. Nobody wants to lose a game."

South Korean coach Kim Ho is worried about his players' alarming lack of stamina as they bid for a third straight appearance at the World Cup finals.

"Our physical condition has not been good in these matches, with the players being affected by the heat and humidity," he said. "I will be asking them to make a big effort against North Korea."

Iraq's soccer team is not assured of being allowed into the United States if it qualifies for next year's World Cup fin-

als. A State Department official said a ban on the Iraqis could not be ruled out, the Washington Post reported Wednesday.

"We will wait and see what happens," the official said. "There will be a lot of pressure both ways if Iraq does qualify. Some will say we should let them come here and see what this country is all about. Others will say that it's outrageous."

If Iraq wins against Japan it could qualify for the trip to the United States.

The Post reported that obtaining visas for the Iraqis could be a problem because of lingering effects of the 1991 Gulf War—namely an embargo blocking Iraq and its citizens from spending money in the United States.

A similar embargo blocked 79 Libyan athletes from last summer's World University Games in Buffalo, N.Y. Also, Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Odai, is head of the Iraqi Soccer Federation.

World Cup spokesman John Griffin said he expects the Iraqis would be admitted to the United States if they qualify.

"We don't anticipate problems with the qualifying teams, including Iraq," he told the Post.

Maradona delighted with form before Australia tie

SYDNEY (Agencies) — Argentina Captain Diego Maradona said Wednesday he was delighted with his physical condition and form going into Sunday's vital World Cup qualifier against Australia.

"The lower body was a bit rusty after a long time without playing but bit by bit my legs are getting there and I am improving day by day," said Maradona, 32, who is making his international comeback in the first-leg tie in Sydney.

"Everything with me is fine mentally. I have not forgotten how to play football," he added.

"I can place the ball. I have the notion where my team mates are on the field. I am very satisfied in myself."

Maradona returned three weeks ago from a four-month layoff to play for Argentina first division side Newell's Old Boys.

Overlooked for Argentina's

earlier World Cup qualifiers, the former Napoli and Sevilla midfielder was recalled by national coach Alfio Basile after last month's shock 5-0 drubbing by Colombia.

That defeat pitched the 1986 world champions into a place in next year's finals in the United States.

"I have a lot of respect for Australia but no fear. Respect and fear are two very different things," said Maradona, who claims to have lost 12 kgs over recent months in his bid to regain match fitness.

Australia travel to Buenos Aires for the return leg on Nov. 17.

Maradona is keeping himself to himself on the run-up to the sudden-death World Cup match.

The Argentinian press said Maradona is only spending time with the rest of the squad during meals and training in

preparation for the first leg in Sydney Sunday.

His brother and personal trainer keep him company at other times.

Argentina is looking for a handsome victory over Australia in Sunday's qualifier to make the Buenos Aires return a formality.

"Argentine football has never been defensive, we always play to win. I hope we play well Sunday and come away with a big victory so the game in Buenos Aires becomes just a formality," Spanish-based Argentinian midfielder Fernando Redondo said Wednesday.

Redondo's arrival, along with Jose Chamot (Foggia), Abel Balbo (AS Roma), Gabriel Bastista (Fiorentina) and Fernando Caceres (Real Zaragoza), completed the 13-man Argentine squad.

"This is a chance for us to qualify for the finals and we're all conscious of our responsibilities," Redondo said. "We must regain our reputation. "Although we had a bad experience with Colombia the

quality of Argentinian football is still there," he said.

Redondo said he was looking forward to linking up with Diego Maradona.

The pair are expected to combine in the midfield with Jose Basualdo and Hugo Perez, with Bastista and Balbo likely to play up front.

"It's a dream come true to play with Maradona," Redondo said.

Australian coach Eddie Thomson was heartened by reports of an outstanding display by goalkeeper Mark Bosnich. Bosnich was named man of the match and earned a review from Aston Villa manager Ron Atkinson in a League Cup match against Sunderland last night.

"All of a sudden Mark is the best keeper in the world, but I'm glad he's in form," Thomson said.

"We haven't got that many world class keepers that I can afford to ignore him. He's a great keeper and could play in the World Cup series for the next three or four tournaments."

Wright saves English League Cup holders

LONDON (AFP) — Arsenal hit-man Ian Wright maintained the Gunners' shaky grip on the English League Cup by grabbing a 1-1 third-round draw against Norwich with a spectacular late equaliser on Tuesday night.

The holders were 12 minutes away from defeat when the England striker volleyed an Alan Smith pass beyond Norwich goalkeeper Bryan Gunn

for his 14th goal of the season.

It was a reprieve Arsenal barely deserved against a Norwich side who displayed more purpose and controlled most of the game, but now face a replay on Nov. 10 against a team unbeaten in their last 23 ties.

Midfielder Ian Crook had blasted Norwich ahead in the 33rd minute when Danish International John Jensen failed to control a Ruell Fox cross.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Arafat brother seeks aid for hospital

TOKYO (R) — The brother of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat asked on Wednesday for Japan's help to rebuild the only working hospital in the West Bank town of Jericho. "It is not by a signature that hate becomes love," Dr. Fathi Arafat, head of the Palestinian Red Crescent society, told a press lunch. "Cooperation with Israel and other countries in the field of health is one important way of making a lasting peace." Dr. Arafat is on a worldwide tour to seek support for his plan to bolster health services.

Yemeni ruling council member suffers stroke

SANAA (AP) — Salem Saleh Mohammad, a member of Yemen's ruling presidential council, has suffered a stroke that paralysed the right side of his body and required his evacuation to Germany for treatment, officials disclosed Wednesday. The 50-year-old Mohammad suffered the stroke Monday after a meeting of the presidential council. He was flown out on Tuesday, said the officials. But they said Health Minister Mohammad Saeed Abdullah, himself a victim of a backbone problem, was flown on the same plane for treatment in Germany.

Denktash joins opposition party

NICOSIA (R) — Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash, at odds with the ruling party he helped to set up, has joined the opposition Democratic Party (DP). At a ceremony Tuesday night attended by more than 500 of his supporters, Mr. Denktash signed the membership form of the party set up by some defectors from the ruling National Unity Party (NUP), including his son Serdar Denktash.

Israel opposes 'Palestine' team at Olympics

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel will continue to oppose the participation of "the State of Palestine" at the Olympic Games, the Israeli foreign ministry said Tuesday, despite recent peace talks. The statement came after Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin met with Israeli sports officials. International Olympic Committee (IOC) officials have said they will consider Palestinian applications to field a team at the Olympics for the first time. The IOC has rejected such applications in the past.

Sultan of Brunei leaves \$170,000 tip

NICOSIA (AP) — Sultan Hassan Bolkiah of Brunei left a "small token of appreciation" for the hotel staff at the end of a five-day stay in Cyprus — a \$170,000 tip. The richest man in the world, whose fortune is estimated at over \$33 billion, came to Cyprus on Dec. 20 for a summit meeting of the Commonwealth — an association of Britain and 49 former colonies. Before leaving on Monday, he sent an emissary with a bag and a note to the Four Seasons general manager, Costa Peres, the hotel's public relations officer said Wednesday. The bag contained 1,700 one-hundred dollar bills. The note said: "A big thank you... this is a small token of appreciation."

Two Kuwaiti helicopters crash in Gulf

KUWAIT (AP) — Two Kuwaiti military helicopters collided and crashed into the Gulf Wednesday during an exercise to salute visiting relatives of British soldiers killed in the Gulf war. The Defence Ministry said in a statement that three officers were killed and one was injured in the accident that involved two French-built Puma helicopters. The statement said the injured officer was hospitalised. It was not clear from the ministry's statement if the four officers were all the occupants aboard the ill-fated helicopters.

British journalists released in Yemen

SANAA (AP) — Two British journalists, arrested 24 days ago while working on a documentary on illegal visas and passports, were freed Wednesday. "It's a great relief," Raymond Shillito, one of the two television journalists, told the Associated Press after his release from the Sanaa central prison. Mr. Shillito and Abdullah Mohammed Hassan, who work for a London-based, freelance outfit called Clark Television, were arrested Oct. 3 while making a film for Britain's Channel 4 on fraudulent documents allowing people from Yemen to go to Britain. The allegedly also entered Yemen as tourists and worked illegally on the documentary.

Two Britons injured in blast at UAE smelter

ABU DHABI (AP) — An explosion rocked an aluminium smelter in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and seriously injured two British engineers Wednesday, a spokesman for the plant said. He said the blast hit one of the four potlines at the Dubai smelter in Dubai, which is a major aluminium supplier to Japan and other Asian countries.

Makdah claims he foiled murder bid

SIDON (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officers on Wednesday denied allegations by rebel commander Munir Makdah that they had sent hooded gunmen to assassinate him earlier this week. Colonel Makdah told a news conference in the Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp on Tuesday that he had escaped a plot to kill him the day before. He said his bodyguards arrested one of two hooded men, armed with machine guns, who were lurking outside his house in the camp. He identified the man as Abu Iyad Sha'lan, a captain in the intelligence department of Fateh, the PLO's mainstream guerrilla faction.



ASSAILANT: Plainclothes police bundle suspected gunman Sabir Abu Al Ala, 29, out of the Nile-side Semiramis Inter-Continental Hotel after two Americans and a French tourist were slain late Tuesday by an assailant firing indiscriminately in the hotel's second-floor restaurant (see page one). At least three other guests were injured and a second suspect arrested (AP photo)

Mogadishu war ebbs; Aideed accuses U.N. of incitement

Combined agency dispatches

MOGADISHU — A U.S. military convoy came under small-arms fire Wednesday near an American base. Infantrymen returned fire and two trucks were hit, but there were no reports of casualties, a U.S. military spokesman said. The spokesman, Colonel Steve Rausch, said the attack on a convoy of 10 vehicles occurred near a camel market not far from Hunter Base in northern Mogadishu.

The capital's northern sector is held by warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammed, a rival of Mohammed Farah Aideed, who controls the south side. Clashes between the two factions subsided Wednesday in Mogadishu, with U.N. officials reporting only sporadic gunfire.

Gen. Aideed Wednesday accused the U.N. peacekeeping force in Somalia (UNOSOM) of instigating violence in his country to prove that Somalis were still locked in civil war.

Individuals are encouraged by UNOSOM "to disturb the peace and show that in Somalia fighting is still going on," Gen. Aideed said in an interview with CNN and ABC television.

At least 17 people were killed when heavy fighting erupted on the green line dividing Mogadishu on Monday.

It spread to other neighbourhoods Tuesday.

The fighting initially pitted Aideed's supporters against those of Mr. Ali Mahdi. But later clashes broke out between smaller groups from various clans.

Gen. Aideed blamed Monday's fighting on Mr. Ali Mahdi whose supporters crossed the green line during what they said was a "peace march."

U.N. and U.S. forces did not intervene, and U.N. officials said they expected a political settlement to the conflict.

Wearing a striped shirt and looking relaxed during the interview, Gen. Aideed alleged that UNOSOM commander Admiral Jonathan Howe was in Somalia "not to build democracy... (but) to kill, to commit genocide against the Somali people, to violate human rights."

The U.N. and its Secretary-General Boutros Ghali were "unable to recognise their mistakes (in Somalia) and grouping in the dark," Gen. Aideed said.

"U.N. has no right to build institutions or choose leaders, that's for the Somalis to decide," he said.

Gen. Aideed urged the United Nations "not to show hostility to the Somali people," and claimed that more than 8,000 Somalis have been

wounded in clashes with UNOSOM in the past five months.

He called for the withdrawal of the U.N. troops saying they had "massacred defenceless Somali civilians, including women and children."

Gen. Aideed said the U.S. government's change of policy towards Somalia had a positive impact on relations between the U.S. and Somalia.

The State Department has appointed a new representative to Somalia to help promote a political settlement to the conflict and oversee the withdrawal of American troops.

Ambassador Richard Baggiani will replace another State Department official, Robert Genside, as U.S. special envoy to Somalia, said spokesman David Johnson.

President Bill Clinton's special envoy, Robert Oakley, continues with his mission of trying to promote peace among Somalia's warring factions.

Mr. Baggiani, who has extensive experience in African affairs, will also head the U.S. liaison mission with the United Nations forces in Somalia, which oversees daily contacts with the U.N.

In another development, U.S. military sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said an Australian working for a logistics company aiding the U.N. effort was killed Tuesday.

Security court continues hearings of Tahrir case

AMMAN (AP) — Relatives of three of the defendants accused of plotting to assassinate King Hussein testified Wednesday they saw signs of torture in the bodies of the accused two months after their detention.

The brother of one defendant, who also was once detained as a suspect, said when he visited his brother in jail his brother bore visible signs of torture. The witness said he was not tortured or beaten while he was in custody.

Ten people are on trial, two of them in absentia, on charges they plotted to kill King Hussein during a June 26 graduation ceremony at a military college.

The eight defendants present in court have pleaded innocent. They have retracted pre-trial confessions given to Prosecutor Major Muhammad Hijazi saying they were extracted under torture.

Major Hijazi has denied the allegations. Prison doctors testified that the only signs of possible torture was the peeling skin of some defendants that could have been caused by beatings or by pacing for extended periods of time.

None of the defendants or witnesses could be identified in media reports of the trial under standing orders of the State Security Court, a three-man military panel.

One witness testified Wednesday that one of the defendants, his brother-in-law, was arrested at the airport when he arrived for a short visit in May after being away from more than seven months.

The accused was imprisoned in 1990 for affiliation with an illegal group, Hezb Al Tahrir, or Islamic Liberation Party, and was released in November 1992 under a general amnesty issued by the King, the witness told the State Security Court.

Hezb Al Tahrir, which does not recognise any of the Arab regimes and advocates the establishment of an Islamic caliphate, is charged with plotting to assassinate the King and rewrite the Constitution through "violent means."

The party is accused of recruiting five cadets from Muta University, a military college in south Jordan, to open fire on the King.

Four of the 10 defendants, including the two fugitives, are described by the prosecution as Hezb Al Tahrir activists who directed the cadets through an army officer and ex-student of Muta.

Prosecution witnesses have testified during the eight-week-old trial that the cadets were devout Muslims who resented the pro-Western policies of the regime and admirers of Khalid Islamboohi, who killed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat during a Cairo military parade in 1981.

Prosecution evidence includes leaflets and books containing the Hezb Al Tahrir ideology as well as an informant's testimony that the cadets were discussing the alleged plot.

The defence has produced Islamic scholars and former members of Hezb Al Tahrir who testified that the party did favour setting up an Islamic caliphate but did not adopt violence as a means to achieve this end when it was formed during the 50s.

Two prominent Hezb Al Tahrir leaders, who are not charged in this case but are in detention for illegal political activities, have testified that the party did not believe that Jordan was not the ideal country to launch an Islamic caliphate.

The court adjourned until Sunday, when the defence continues its case.

Thousands slain in Burundi

KARUZI, Burundi (Agencies)

Thousands of people have been massacred in tribal war between Burundi's majority Hutu tribe and the minority Tutsi and much of the countryside has been set on fire, witnesses said Wednesday.

Reporters who flew across the country by helicopter saw dozens of bodies scattered about in devastated towns and farmsteads.

Thousands of refugees had gathered in hilltop areas and soldiers were protecting them

as fighting raged, with groups using knives and machetes and anything they had.

A military commander in the northern town of Karuzi said at least 400 people had been killed in surrounding areas and "every night the fighting goes on."

In the village of Banga, north of Burundi's capital, Bujumbura, refugees showed reporters a ruined building in which they said 100 children and women were incinerated.

'FBI coached informant in New York bombing plot'

NEW YORK (R) — A government informant who made secret tape recordings of people charged with plotting to blow up the United Nations was

coached by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents to manipulate suspects into incriminating themselves, the New York Times reported Wednesday.

Transcripts of the tapes made by the informant, Emad Salem, were turned over to defence lawyers Tuesday.

The transcripts could prove to be an embarrassment to the government in its case against the suspects.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman and 14 co-defendants are charged with conspiring to blow up the United Nations and other New York targets and of plotting to kill Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in New York.

Besides secretly recording the suspects, Mr. Salem turned the tapes on the agents and secretly taped his conversations with them without their knowledge as an "insurance policy" in case officials reneged on a \$1 million deal with him.

"You know, pump, maybe kind of pump him up a little bit," Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Agent John Antevic says on the tape when talking to Mr. Salem as a way of getting information from suspects, the Times said.

Mr. Antevic is heard on the tapes urging Mr. Salem to exploit suspect Ibrahim Elmaghrabi's loyalty towards his cousin, El Sayyid Nosair, who was acquitted in the killing of Rabbi Meir Kahane but convicted of lesser charges in 1991, the newspaper said.

Sheikh Abdul Rahman is accused of being the spiritual leader for the group, which allegedly planned to wage a campaign of bombings across New York.

Since learning that an informant secretly taped conversations with suspects, lawyers in the conspiracy plot case have argued that Mr. Salem entraped their clients.

Mr. Salem is expected to be the star prosecution witness when the case comes to trial early next year.

The Times reported Mr. Salem was instructed by Mr. Antevic on ways to learn whether Mr. Elmaghrabi or other suspects were hiding explosives.

The transcripts include such details as a New York detective telling Mr. Salem how to negotiate his \$1 million deal by asking for \$1.5 million. They also include Mr. Salem blaming

the FBI for its failure to alert officials before the Feb. 26 bombing at New York's World Trade Centre.

In that bombing case, a city police investigator testified Tuesday about painstakingly lifting numbers and letters off a vehicle part found in the bombing rubble to help crack the case.

The testimony by Detective Edward Mason marked a turning point on the month-old trial. Prosecutors began explaining how dozens of pieces of twisted metal shown to the jury ultimately led to the arrests of the four defendants.

The trial has focused so far on the six deaths, more than 1,000 injuries and the wreckage of vehicles destroyed by the Feb. 26 explosion in the floors beneath the twin skyscrapers.

Meanwhile, U.S. District Judge Kevin Duffy told lawyers out of the presence of the jury that he had called the Justice Department in Washington to ask for an investigation after he was erroneously told Monday that federal jail officials had a videotape of defendant Mohammad Salameh refusing to attend the trial.

Mr. Duffy contended the trial Monday without Mr. Salameh, 26, only to learn later that the videotape did not exist.

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Serious doubts cast on future of Al Karameh dam project

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A three-year campaign by experts on soil dynamics and hydro-technology has raised serious questions over a project to build a major dam in the Jordan Valley, and all indications are that the government could decide to shelve the project altogether, informed sources said Wednesday.

The controversy came to a head with a recent report compiled by a special committee formed by the Ministry of Planning to conduct a technical and financial assessment of the proposed Al Karameh Dam about 25 kilometres west of Amman.

The committee report not only confirmed the validity of points raised by experts, including those of Dr. Azim Al Homoud, a professor in geotechnology and soil dynamics at the Jordan University for Science and Technology in Irbid, but also brought to surface several other relevant points.

While the report did not recommend that the JD 55

million project be scrapped, it suggested that more studies be conducted before going ahead with the project.

"The recommendations have cast serious doubts on the future of the project," said an informed source. "It is highly probable that the government might decide to shelve it because it raises more questions than it could solve."

The Ministry of Public Works have chosen an Italian company to build the dam, but has yet to designate an international consultant to supervise the construction.

The Ministry of Planning ordered a study on the project three months ago in response to criticism that the proposed dam had several serious flaws.

His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan had also received a copy of a detailed assessment of the proposed dam by Dr. Homoud, who was running a dedicated campaign against the dam project saying that the original technical study did not address the issues adequately.

"The proposed site for the dam is in a very dangerous, earthquake-prone area," Dr.

Homoud told the Jordan Times. The geophysical features of the soil — "alternating layers of clay and loose sand" — should preempt the dam project simply because the foundation of the dam would not be able to withstand a medium-size earthquake, he explained.

"I am not predicting an earthquake today or tomorrow, but it has been established that the area could witness an earthquake of a serious magnitude sooner or later," Dr. Homoud said.

Dr. Homoud, who obtained his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1990, recalled that the epicentre of a 1927 earthquake "was precisely in the same area where the dam is proposed to be built." That tremor registered 6.25 on the open-ended Richter scale, which is the universal barometer for earthquakes, and was felt in the West Bank town of Nablus where it killed over a dozen people.

A quake of a 6.25 magnitude could cause serious damages in populated areas depending on the construction of buildings.

Natural Resources Authority (NRA) maps show the existence of an earth fault in the Jordan Valley, running for about 130 kilometres from the northern end of the Dead Sea to Lake Tiberias.

Experts say the rift is very similar to the San Andreas fault in California. Such geophysical formations cause constant underground movements, but the shifts are not felt since they are of negligible intensity.

Dr. Homoud, who said he paid extensive visits to the proposed Al Karameh Dam site in the course of preparing his study, conceded that engineering techniques could be applied to ensure that the structure could withstand a medium-size earthquake. But "then the cost of the project could go up to JD 100 million and make it totally economically non-feasible," he said.

Grouting and strengthening the sand and sealing the upstream sinkholes — whose seepage could weaken the foundation layers further — are some of the suggested solutions, but, he said, "these are very expensive processes."

Designs prepared by an international consultancy firm for the 46-metre dam, which will have a reservoir capacity of 50 million cubic metres, have taken into consideration the possibility of a quake of 6.5 on the Richter scale and a tremor of 7.8 "is not unexpected," he said.

But, Dr. Homoud said, the proposed construction does not provide for the necessary additions to the foundation and topographical features around it.

Another major point against the dam project is that the water it would hold will be of high salinity and could not be used for drinking purposes, he said. "It is time we gave priority to addressing the drinking water needs of the country."

The Al Karameh Dam is one of several major dam projects that the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has drawn up, mainly to address the agricultural needs of the farming belt of the Kingdom.

Dr. Homoud, who prepared a study on last October's earthquake in Cairo, forwarded that study as well as his assessment of the Al Karameh dam to His

Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan in May.

"My assessment was based on purely scientific methods and technical assessment," Dr. Homoud said. "I have no interest in politics."

Prince Hassan, in a reply to Dr. Homoud, appreciated his interest and dedication in presenting "what he felt was right for the country," and said that the concerned authorities were following up the matter.

"I was very gratified and honoured to receive the response from His Royal Highness," said Dr. Homoud, adding that he was not aware of the present official status of the dam project. "But I hope that the entire project is scrapped."

A report by the Aodit Bureau on the project also has supported the Homoud study, and the issue has been circulating in the corridors of the Prime Ministry and other government departments after Dr. Homoud followed up the issue with continued contacts with the authorities.

The project was turned into a serious issue by the constant focus on it by the Arabic news-

papers and magazines.

Dr. Homoud said he was not simply opposing the project without having alternatives in mind.

"We can go ahead with the Makkarem Dam or the Al Wahdah Dam to the north," he said. "In both cases the water is sweet and could be used for drinking purposes, and, equally importantly, it will cost JD 1 per cubic metre of water for the next 50 years in these two cases while it will cost JD 3 per cubic metre in the case of Al Karameh Dam until a quake destroys it."

Work on the Al Makkarem Dam was launched in 1966, but was frozen during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. It was designed to hold about 400 million cubic metres of water.

Jordan and Syria renewed a 1950s agreement on the Al Wahdah Dam in the mid-1980s but Israeli objections based on an argument that the Jewish state was also a riparian blocked work on the project. The Kingdom had built a diversion in preparation for building the dam when the Israeli objections led to a freeze in international financing for the project.

COLUMN

Irish writer Roddy Doyle wins Booker Prize

LONDON (R) — Roddy Doyle, whose first book The Commitments about bringing soul music to the slums of Dublin became a hit film, has won the 1993 Booker Prize.

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